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THE TIMES

No. 65,140 SATURDAY DECEMBER 17 1994

Major seeks elusive feel-good factor

Tories blame feuding for poll disaster

BY JILL SHERMAN AND JONATHAN PRYNN

THE Prime Minister yesterday urged Conservatives to "pull in the same direction" as Tory MPs blamed bitter feuding at Westminster for their worst by-election defeat by Labour for 60 years.

While Tories tried to pick up the pieces after Labour romped home in Dudley West, John Major is preparing an offensive to try to explain the economic recovery to the public.

There is concern that the improvement is still not being felt. To counter this, the party is asking local businessmen to use the media to explain how the recovery is affecting their companies. Mr Major will also hold breakfast meetings with industrialists to rebuild the elusive "feel-good factor".

Mr Major admitted that the defeat was a "very poor result fought against a very unpromising background". But he urged the Tories to pull together and "whip away the mask" that was hiding the good economic news from the public.

"Providing people realise that they must pull in the same direction, for the same cause, at the same time and against the same opponents, then I think that will dramatically transform the political environment," he said.

Other MPs were far more blatant in blaming the Tory rebels who had deliberately undermined the Government's policies over Europe, VAT on fuel and the Common Fisheries Policy.

The Tory campaign team claimed that party divisions had made it impossible to get their message across. Anthony Coombs, campaign co-ordinator and MP for Wyre Forest, said it would be "naive" to pretend that the rows over Europe and VAT had not hurt the campaign.

Sir Norman Fowler, the former party chairman, claimed that the party had a "political death wish" by appearing hopelessly divided. "Conservatives should be absolutely clear what this means. If we go on like this, then we will make a gift-wrapped present of the next general election to the Labour Party," he wrote in the *Evening Standard* yesterday.

There were few signs, however, that the defeat had shocked the rebels into toeing the party line. Theresa Gorman, MP for Billericay who lost the whip two weeks ago, accused MPs of trying to find a scapegoat and insisted that the Government lost because of its policies. People were fed up with "handouts to Brussels", she said. "Our supporters stayed at home because they think the policies we are pursuing are not in their best interests," she told BBC radio.

The Prime Minister also faced calls from the Right for radical policies. John Townend, chairman of the backbench Finance Committee, called for tighter spending controls and tax cuts, while Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North, said that it was important to return to the policies on which the Tories fought the last general election "and show the people we mean it".

However, John Redwood, the Welsh Secretary, played down Cabinet divisions over a referendum on Europe, which many MPs claim is also undermining Mr Major's message unity.

Other Cabinet ministers called for an immediate fightback, arguing that the defeat was not a vote for socialism but a lack of confidence in the Government. David Hunt, the Cabinet's troubleshooter, said Mr Major should not be judged on the half-time score.

Yesterday Tony Blair injected a note of caution despite the victory. He fears that many Conservatives stayed at home or voted Labour because of him rather than his party's policies. The Labour leadership argues that floating Tories need convincing that the Labour Party will adopt Mr Blair's modernising policies.

William Rees-Mogg, page 12
Leading article, and Letters, page 13

THE RESULT

I Pearson (Lab)	28,400	(68.75%)
G Postles (C)	7,708	(18.66%)
M Hadley (LD)	3,154	(7.64%)

Others: M S Hyde (Lib Pty) 548; A Carmichael (NF) 561; M R Floyd (UK) 590 ; C R Palmer, Lord of Manton (21st Cen Pty) 55; M H Nattrass (New Br) 146; M Nicholson (FOREST) 77; J D Oldbury (Nat Law Pty) 70

Total vote 41,307 Turnout 46.95%

Lab maj 20,694 Lab gain

1992: Total votes 71,115 (82.1%). C maj: 5,789. C 34,729 (48.8%); Lab 28,940 (40.7%); LD 7,448 (10.5%).

SIMON WALKER

Eleanor Berry shaking her fist on leaving Knightsbridge Crown Court yesterday after the acquittal of Gida Ratner, right, on charges of forgery

9,000 MoD redundancies

More than 9,000 military staff are to be made redundant under the Government's plans to scale down the armed services.

The Ministry of Defence announced yesterday that all the 7,500 Royal Air Force job losses announced in July will be made through redundancies. Out of 1,900 Royal Navy job reductions, 1,500 will be through redundancies and 400 soldiers will be made redundant out of 2,200 Army posts to be lost.

When the job cuts were originally announced it was said that many would be though natural wastage.

Curriculum plan for under-fives

Ministers are considering a national curriculum for the under-fives as part of a package to implement John Major's pledge to provide a pre-school place for every four-year-old.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, is drawing up plans for regulations to cover state and private nurseries, and playgroups. The first places from the new initiative are expected to be available by 1996.

Page 5

Hunters defended

A Tanzanian hunting company responsible for the safaris in which four semi-tame elephant bulls were killed defended its actions and said it would do the same again.

The elephants were shot by two Germans and an American. The killings have been condemned as unsporting.

Page 9

Russian army in Chechenia on brink of mutiny

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN GROZNY AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A THIRD of the Russian force sent into Chechenia stood last night on the brink of mutiny against President Yeltsin after its commander vowed not to use force against the Chechens and declared the invasion unconstitutional.

Major-General Ivan Babichev told 1,000 Chechens that his armoured column 20 miles west of the Chechen capital, Grozny, was "not going any further". The move, which



Babichev: "We are not going any further"

appeared to reflect the attitudes of many Russian soldiers ordered into the breakaway republic on Sunday, made a mockery of Mr Yeltsin's ultimatum to use force against the Chechens unless they disarm by midnight.

As the general spoke, there appeared to be further moves towards a peaceful settlement in the northern Caucasus region after President Dudayev, the Chechen leader, ordered his men to withdraw from their front lines to avoid clashing with Russian troops.

In Moscow, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister who chaired an emergency meeting on Chechenia last night, said that they would be willing to meet General Dudayev anywhere.

Both sides, however, still insist on preconditions. The Russians want the Chechens to disarm, while the Chechen leadership insists that all Russian troops leave its soil before it will discuss its self-declared independence from Russia.

Into this potentially explosive position has been added the third voice of General Babichev, a former paratroop commander who is becoming a champion of common sense for both sides.

"It is not our fault that we are here," said as he was embraced by weeping elderly Chechen women. "We did not want this. They [Russian leaders] can condemn us, but we are not going to shoot. We are not going to use tanks against the people. We are not going any further.

"This [operation] contradicted the constitution," he said, apparently speaking for those under his command, including an aide identified as Colonel Gennadi Kondalin. "It is forbidden to use the

Continued on page 2, col 3

Chechen hope, page 9

Anger after acquittal

THE Hon Eleanor Berry, daughter of Lord Hartwell, shook her fists and launched into a tirade against the young widow of a society doctor who walked free from court yesterday (Dominic Kennedy writes).

Gida Ratner, 21, was cleared of swindling £17,000 from Miss Berry, who claimed her credit card had been used while she was undergoing rejuvenation therapy by Dr Victor Ratner.

Miss Berry collapsed in the corridor of Knightsbridge Crown Court after the jury passed not guilty verdicts.

As Mrs Ratner left the court building looking serene and composed Miss Berry started shaking her fist at her, pointing and calling her names.

The two-week trial included allegations by Mrs Ratner that Miss Berry had taken cocaine and morphine.

Widow's threat, page 3

Suicide alert over Hindley as life term is confirmed

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MYRA HINDLEY is under round-the-clock observation by prison staff in case she attempts to harm or kill herself after learning that she is to stay in jail until she dies.

The Moors murderer met her solicitor yesterday only hours after being told of a decision taken four years ago that she must remain in prison for the rest of her life.

Andrew McCooey, her solicitor, said last night: "I think she is very subdued. She realises now she will not get out. She had always hoped against hope that she would get out." Asked whether Hindley, 52, had been tearful, Mr McCooey said: "It is like a bereavement."

Last night relatives of her victims expressed joy at the "life means life" decision. Ann West, mother of Lesley Ann Downey, said: "I am absolutely over the moon. It is the best Christmas present, it is better than winning the lottery and is something I have been fighting for 28 years. The first thing I said when I heard the news was 'Yippee!'"

Paul Reade, brother of another victim, Pauline, said when he heared the news his first words had been: "Thank God for that. I then said to myself, and I meant it in a sinister way, 'Bye, bye Myra'". He added: "We can at least have a better Christmas this year knowing that this woman is never going to be let out.

Christine Ellis, the governor at Cookham Wood jail at Rochester, Kent, broke the news to Hindley on Thursday night. She was told that she has a right to appeal to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. Prison service sources said the staff would have made sure officers were alerted to offer counselling to Hindley and keep a close watch on her psychological condition.

One prison governor said: "If people know that they are never going to get out of prison then there would clearly be great concern in terms of their own wish to take their own lives. Some might decide it not worth hanging on".

Hindley, jailed for life with Ian Brady in 1966, has served 29 years for the murder of Lesley Anne Downey and Edward Evans. She later confessed to her role in the murders of Pauline Reade, Keith Bennett and John Kilbride.

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Why the FO chaps opened a bank for criminals

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE British Government helped to establish a bank for crooks in the West Indies as part of a multinational sting against Colombia's most notorious drugs cartel.

The Foreign Office was so enthusiastic about the British role that Antony Baldry, a junior minister, appeared in a promotional video about the operation. The bank, which discouraged legitimate customers, laundered hundreds of millions of dollars of drug profits which were monitored by agents. The operation resulted yesterday in widespread arrests, the seizure of cocaine and $52 million (£33 million) in laundered money and the confiscation of three valuable paintings.

Over a period of six months, the bank in Anguilla laundered as much as $200 million on behalf of the Cali Cartel, an association of independent drug lords now considered the kings of Colombian cocaine.

This week, agents from the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) brought the operation to a swift conclusion, seizing nine tons of cocaine with a street value of $110 million in Canada and in parts of the United States. They arrested 88 cartel members on both sides of the Atlantic, confiscated the laundered money and impounded paintings by Rubens, Reynolds and Picasso worth collectively an estimated $13 million.

"For the first time a bank has been used to penetrate the heart of an organisation," Thomas Constantine, administrator of the DEA, said. "The involvement of so many law enforcement entities, foreign and domestic, demonstrates the ultimate success of international co-operation and intelligence sharing."

In what was described as a symbol of a "new world order of law enforcement", Operation Dinero, as the sting was called, was set up more than two years ago after the Atlanta division of the DEA penetrated the Cali mafia and was commissioned to arrange money drops in the United States and Europe. The British Government said it would help in setting up an offshore private bank to launder drug proceeds from the Colombians.

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Heseltine wins battle over RAF planes

By Jill Sherman and Ross Tieman

British Aerospace says Malcolm Rifkind's "extremely welcome" change of heart will secure 7,000 jobs in the company

MICHAEL HESELTINE has won a tough Cabinet battle to persuade the Government to consider a European plane to replace most of the RAF transport fleet.

In a surprising turnround, Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday that Britain may buy 40 to 50 of the European Future Large Aircraft provided the plane is developed as a commercial project by Airbus Industrie, the consortium of European plane-makers. The announcement coincided with a widely-expected £1 billion order for 25 American Hercules C-130J transports.

The contract had been the subject of an intense battle within the Cabinet and between Lockheed, manufacturer of the Hercules, British Aerospace, a partner in the FLA project, and Airbus Industrie, which will design and build the plane.

Mr Rifkind and the Treasury had backed the purchase of Lockheed's planes to replace the RAF's existing Hercules fleet, many of which are almost 30 years old. But the President of the Board of Trade, in a campaign reminiscent of his battles over the future of the Westland helicopter company eight years ago, insisted the Government give European plane-makers the opportunity to compete for the rest of the RAF's needs. Mr Heseltine had warned colleagues that if Britain went ahead with the Hercules order without signalling support for the FLA, Britain's aerospace industry would be in jeopardy. Yesterday, sources close to Mr Heseltine said he was delighted with the deal.

Mr Rifkind said that provided undertakings were forthcoming from other European nations that the plane would be developed by Airbus Industrie, Britain would rejoin Euroflag, the FLA development consortium it quit in 1989.

British Aerospace welcomed the decision and said it would secure 7,000 jobs and its position as Europe's leading designer of aircraft wings. Dick Evans, chief executive, said: "This is extremely welcome news for BAe, the UK aerospace industry and for jobs in this vital high technology industry."

Mr Rifkind said: "Inevitably, discussions of this kind were complex, but Michael Heseltine and I worked very closely on this one and have an outcome we are both very happy with.

"What we have done is not only meet the immediate needs of the RAF by the purchase of Hercules, but we have indicated for our long-term requirements we will be rejoining the European FLA programme and we see the FLA as a very serious contender for our future requirements."

Announcing the decision in a Commons written reply, Mr Rifkind added that Lockheed would place contracts of equal value to the Hercules deal with UK companies and that British suppliers were expected to benefit from sales of the new plane elsewhere in the world.

Industry celebrates, page 17

How Conservative dissidents gave Labour by-election victory

Dudley loss echoes dark days for Tory leader

By Andrew Pierce

LABOUR'S victory in Dudley echoes the historic win in 1935 when another split in the Tory party heralded its worst by-election defeat in decades.

But in the mid-1930s it was the spectre of India, not Europe, that haunted Stanley Baldwin, the Tory leader. After months of party warfare over Baldwin's plan to give limited home rule to India the Tory dissidents, led by Winston Churchill, saw their chance to humiliate the Prime Minister.

The dashing Randolph Churchill, son of the future Prime Minister, stood as an Independent Conservative in the Liverpool Wavertree by-election. On February 6, 1935, a Conservative majority of 23,973 vanished and Labour squeezed home with 1,840 votes to spare. Randolph Churchill polled an impressive 10,575 votes, only 3,000 short of the Official Conservative candidate, John Platt. Winston Churchill deployed his formidable rhetorical skills to great effect during his son's campaign.



Randolph Churchill divided the Tories

With the Tory party torn apart by the Churchills, Wavertree became the ninth seat to fall to Labour at by-elections since the general election of 1931. Newspapers such as *The Times* highlighted the fact that the result was not just about India but a reflection on a Government that looked tired and was running out of ideas. Five days after the by-election shock, which dominated the media, the historic India Bill, providing for limited home rule, was approved in principle by the Commons. It led to Winston Churchill's banishment to the wilderness for several years.

Randolph Churchill, who was married to Pamela Harriman, now the United States Ambassador in Paris, described his part in the contest as a "glorious fight worthy of a great cause" and said that there must be "no surrender in India, and a revival of the great Conservative Party".

Platt was bitter in defeat: "It is entirely due to the splitting of the Conservative vote by the intervention of Randolph Churchill." Labour's new MP, Joseph Cleary, was jubilant, warning that the Tories would be unable to hold a single seat in the country if the result was repeated.

The Times declared in an editorial: "Some aspects of the Government's policies have given the impression of staleness or lack of leadership. There exists a substantial feeling that the time is coming for some changes in an administration, however active and successful it may have been in the past, which has presented to this country the same faces in the same positions from its beginning." Baldwin, like John Major, was warned against being out of touch with his supporters. *The Times* said: "To reflect and stimulate the overwhelming popular opinion by the personnel and policy of the Government must be the main concern of all those who look to the future."

But there is a warning for both Labour and Tory candidates in Dudley. Labour's joy was short-lived: in November of the same year the Tories recaptured the seat at the general election with an 8,000 majority. Cleary went on to contest six elections without success, while Platt sank without trace.

Leading article, page 13



Ian Pearson, the Labour MP for Dudley West, after his landslide victory

Volatile swings on voting roundabout

By Arthur Leathley
Political Correspondent

EVEN in the volatile world of by-elections, where record achievements are often overtaken swiftly, the Dudley West result marks a genuinely historic victory for Labour.

Thursday's 29 per cent swing to Tony Blair's party is unparalleled in post-war by-elections where Labour have won Conservative seats, although there have been other dramatic swings. In 1990, Sylvia Heal overturned a 14,654 Tory majority in Mid Staffordshire with a 21.4 per cent swing.

This week's swing to Labour is not the biggest turnaround since the war. Last year's Liberal Democrat victory at Christchurch, when Diana Maddock overturned a Tory majority of 23,015 with a 35.4 per cent swing, set a post-war record which was also the largest shift away from the government since the modern party system began in 1918.

In the other two seats lost by the Government this parliament, Conservative candidates have been defeated by massive swings to the Liberal Democrats. David Rendel overturned the 12,357 Tory majority in Newbury with a 28.4 per cent swing in May last year, while David Chidgey won Eastleigh last June with a shift of 21.5 per cent.

Conservatives have to look back nearly 20 years to when they last made such an impressive by-election gain, defeating James Callaghan's Labour party in Walsall North in 1976.

To prove that the electoral wheel of fortune does turn, Tories may look back to 1968 when they won an apparently impregnable seat from Harold Wilson's Labour Government. That seat was Dudley.



Callaghan: PM when Tories won big swing

Half-time score indicates that blues must unite

Jeremy Hanley uncannily got it right about Dudley West. The Tory chairman gave a warning against "judging the game by the half-time score". But just as the half-time score shows what needs to be done in the second half, so Dudley West shows how much the Tories have to do before spring 1997. They are now three-nil down.

By-elections, like opinion polls, measure the electorate's mood at a particular time, rather than at some future general election. As John Major had to admit, the result was "very poor" for the Tories. But that does not mean that Labour is going to win a landslide victory in 1996-97.

Yet it is facile to dismiss by-elections as of no importance. It may be absurd to project the Dudley West figures to a general election — no Tory MPs and more than 600 Labour — but it is also futile for the Tories to point out that at the 1992 election they won back all seven seats they had lost in the previous three years.

What matters is now. The result was dreadful for the Tories. They lost more than three-quarters of their 1992 support and their share of the vote fell from nearly 49 to just under 19 per cent. This is much worse than the Tory result in the three other seats they have defended since 1992, where their absolute vote fell by between 58 and 65 per cent.

Labour increased its share of the vote from 41 to nearly 69 per cent. Admittedly, the number of Labour votes was fractionally lower than in 1992, so many former Tories may have stayed at home rather than switched. But this may partly be explained by the low turnout of 47 per cent — hardly surprising on a cold day before Christmas when the result was a foregone conclusion.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

In percentage terms, the shift of votes away from the Tories, 29 per cent, was the largest swing to Labour in any by-election since Liverpool Wavertree in 1935. But it is smaller than the swing from the Tories to the Liberal Democrats in Christchurch in July 1993 and roughly the same as in Newbury two months earlier. As in previous by-elections, the third party, in this case the Liberal Democrats, suffered a squeeze. Dudley West was not that extraordinary, but rather evidence of the public's greater willingness now, compared with the 1950s, to punish unpopular governments in mid-term. Yet Labour won just the type of marginal seat it must gain at a general election.

As Tony Blair was quick to point out, Labour's big victory should not produce complacency. The size of the swing was probably much more an anti-Tory protest than an endorsement of Labour. Mr Blair will be worried if the result makes his party more reluctant to change.

The message for the Tories is as in John Maples's famous memorandum. Nothing damages a party more than squabbling. Polls taken in Dudley, as well as nationally, show that this damaged the party. There is no evidence that big shake-ups of policy or personalities, or a referendum on Europe, would change Tory fortunes. Mr Major was right yesterday to argue that unity is the priority. That he had to make the plea emphasises the Tories' predicament.

Peter Riddell

Wildlife role for farmland

Farmers and environmentalists yesterday welcomed moves by the European Union that would for the first time allow set-aside land to be used to create wildlife habitats.

If the proposals are adopted, farmers will be able to use set-aside land to recreate such landscape features as flood meadows in river valleys, grazing marshes and heathland.

Retrial verdict

Stephen Young, 36, of Pembury, Kent, who won a retrial after jury members used a ouija board, received two life sentences at the Old Bailey for the murder of Harry Fuller, 45, and his bride Nicola, 27.

Trial halted

A judge at Leicester Crown Court freed Denis Molloy, 53, a stable owner accused of the manslaughter of Sandra Grubnic, 16, who was trampled when his horses broke loose from a wedding carriage in Derby.

Fatal swim

Deborah Constable, 32, a British teacher, was swept away by strong currents on a last swim with friends after three months' charity work in Nicaragua, a Durham inquest was told. Verdict: accidental death.

Early leavers

Children as young as five are being expelled from school, according to a report by the south London borough of Southwark. Last year several children were expelled within two years of starting school.

Flogging plea

Judge Stable, QC, told three teenagers who admitted aggravated vehicle taking at Snaresbrook Crown Court, east London, that he would order them flogged if "our pusillanimous politicians" would allow it.

£49 tunnel trip

A £49 day-return car-carrying service through the Channel Tunnel is to start on Thursday with hourly departures, Eurotunnel announced. From January a five-day return ticket for Le Shuttle will be £75.

Beyond a joke

Staff are banned from making jokes about their colleagues' hobbies under a policy against harassment at work drawn up by Camden and Islington family health services authority in London.

Checkenia

Continued from page 1

army against civilians. It is forbidden to shoot at the people."

His remarks followed his decision on Tuesday to halt his column near the village of Davydenko rather than confront unarmed civilians.

"We have not received an order to attack Grozny, but if I did, it would mean killing civilians. This would be a criminal order, and even a soldier cannot obey a criminal order," said the general, who denied that he had been dismissed. "When I see the faces of these old women, it is as if I see my own mother."

Junior officers from the three units making up the column echoed his sentiments. A major in the Motorised Rifle Division said: "Almost all the officers of the division have written letters of resignation. I have done so myself today. We are not prepared to use arms against civilians".

A captain of the Interior Ministry who gave his name as Oleg also said that his men were not willing to fire on civilians, but added: "We will not open fire first, but if we are fired on, we will defend ourselves, and then I don't care who is in the way." Asked if it was worth fighting to keep Chechenia part of Russia, he replied: "If you want my personal opinion, no."

The Russian column approaching from the north yesterday continued occasionally to bombard Chechen positions, but its advance has slowed, and at this rate it will take weeks for it to surround Grozny. Most of the third column, which was supposed to enter from Dagestan in the east, has failed even to cross the border and reports suggest that the troops have poor morale and no stomach for the fight.

Chechen hope, page 9

ELEPHANTS

The World Wide Fund for Nature asks us to point out that neither WWF nor any of its employees or associates are in any way connected with the killing of elephants in Tanzania, which has been the subject of recent reports.

Skin doctor quits 'NHS madhouse'

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

A LEADING skin specialist has resigned from his hospital post after claiming that NHS Trust managers have created an "Alice in Wonderland, bean-counting madhouse".

Dr John Cotterill is working out his notice at Leeds General Infirmary after sending a strongly-worded letter of resignation. He will leave at the end of January. In his letter, Dr Cotterill condemns "seriously out of control" management of the Trust hospital for creating a "two-tier system of care," running down research and doctor training, and leaving his department "plagued by suspicion and low morale". He said: "The lunatics are running the asylum."

A spokeswoman for the hospital said yesterday that the claims had been strongly rejected by fellow consultants.

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Doctor's widow to sue patient who accused her of fraud

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A HARLEY STREET doctor's widow accused of stealing a credit card and forging cheques belonging to one of her husband's patients threatened to sue her yesterday after being cleared by a jury.

Gida Ratner, 21, said she had lost her home and her late husband's medical practice after being accused of defrauding Eleanor Berry, the daughter of Lord Hartwell, a former owner of *The Daily Telegraph*, of nearly £17,000.

The judge took the unusual step of refusing a defence application for Mrs Ratner's legal costs to be paid. Judge Hordern, QC, said: "Those who choose to say absolutely nothing and reserve a very surprise defence till the last moment do not in my view deserve costs."

During the trial, Mrs Ratner said she had seen Miss Berry, 44, taking cocaine and morphine with her late husband, Dr Victor Ratner, whose clients included Princess Alexandra, the Duchess of Kent, Sir David Frost and Elizabeth Taylor.

Miss Berry, author of *Robert Maxwell As I Knew Him*, in which she pays tribute to the late publisher as a "hunky male sex siren", said she lost her case because her medical records were given to the defence team. In the witness box, she was asked questions about her psychiatric history. She agreed she had made a list of ways of "causing pain" to a doctor at St Bartholomew's Hospital, central London, who was jealous of her affection for Mr Maxwell.

She said she had written hundreds of abusive letters to people who had upset her but never posted them.

Miss Berry strongly denied suggestions that she was consuming cocaine with Dr Ratner and owed him money for the drug. She said she was attending sessions of rejuvenating "ozone therapy".

> "I was absolutely ripped to pieces in the witness box but I held my own like a taurus going into a matador's stomach"

Mrs Ratner, a former model born in Sierra Leone, was accused of stealing Miss Berry's Access card from her handbag and going on a shopping spree, before returning the card. She was also accused of forging cheques belonging to Miss Berry, whose weekly bill for treatment was £900. Mrs Ratner acted as her husband's financial controller and receptionist. Dr Ratner, 62, a member of the wealthy jewellery family, died from an overdose of the heroin substitute methadone within a few days of confronting his wife about the missing cash in August 1993.

The jury took only three hours to reach its unanimous verdict of not guilty on a list of charges including using a false instrument and forgery.

Mrs Ratner, who married her husband two hours before giving birth to a son, looked more sullen than triumphant as she emerged from court. She scowled towards Miss Berry, who was shaking her head in disbelief. "I am going to sue," she said. "It has affected my life and has destroyed my friends." She did not flinch when Miss Berry collapsed.

Miss Berry said she had been bashed left, right and centre by defence counsel, but survived because she was born under the zodiac sign of the bull. "I was absolutely ripped to pieces in the witness box but I held my own like a taurus going into a matador's stomach," she said. "She can sue me for anything. I am going to fight it until the end of my life because I think my honour has been besmirched. She is totally evil, vile, despicable, and she is a witch."

Photographs, page 1



Last year: sad Princess at the charity lunch

Anniversary Princess returns to limelight

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Princess of Wales continued her return to public life yesterday by visiting the hotel where, 12 months ago, she announced her retreat from the limelight.

A buoyant Princess in pale peach suit and pearls arrived at the Hilton in London where last December, close to tears, she asked for understanding and time to herself. Yesterday she appeared happy and at ease.

The annual fund-raising Christmas lunch of the Headway National Head Injuries Association, of which the Princess is a patron, was the occasion last year of her announcement that she needed time out from the strain of the world's media focus. This year she did not speak at the lunch. Afterwards she spoke to well-wishers outside the hotel who gave her flowers and Christmas cards. Over the past year the Princess has still been pursued by photographers and faced media scrutiny after allegations that nuisance phone calls were made from her private line.

She weathered a claim in Anna Pasternak's book *Princess In Love* that she had an affair with a former cavalry officer, James Hewitt. Edging back into public life with half a dozen official engagements towards the end of this year, she has kept alive her interest in charity work.

Headway is of particular interest to the Princess. Only weeks after agreeing to become its patron in 1991, Prince William suffered a serious head injury from an accidental blow with a golf club at Ludgrove, his Berkshire prep school. He was taken to Great Ormond Street children's hospital for an operation to correct a depressed fracture.



Yesterday: a cheerful Princess of Wales meeting well-wishers outside the Hilton

MONDAY IN THE TIMES



SULTRY SINGER
Joanna Pitman on the retro charm of Ute Lemper



SMART SWINGER?
Andrew Longmore on Nick Faldo in Jamaica

TIMES SPORT — 12 PAGES ON MONDAY

£2m pools win fails to save car dealer from jail

BY CATHERINE MILTON

A MAN who won more than £2 million on the football pools during his trial for dishonest car dealing was yesterday sentenced to three years.

Dorchester Crown Court heard that the large pool payout had affected Ian White's sentence: he was ordered to pay £162,869 in compensation and costs. Judge John Beashel told him: "You have had the unique experience of winning on the football pools during your trial.

"That does alter the way I can deal with you today. It allows me to make compensation orders and to pay costs as you have the funds."

White, 27, was sentenced to three years on each of six charges of car-ringing and fined £10,000 on another two counts of dishonesty. The balance of his payment to the court covers compensation and costs.

But White, who will not be able to spend more than the Home Office allowed maximum of £115 a year on privileges while he was in prison, is likely to recoup his losses in interest earned on the balance of his win while he is in jail.

At current interest rates available for large sums of money, White could earn £400,000 in 18 months, the minimum time that he could serve before he might be released before the end of his sentence, for good behaviour.

White, of Yeovil, Somerset, had denied eleven counts of theft, handling stolen cars, a van and Ministry of Transport certificates, between 1990 and April 1993.

Described in court as "being into car-ringing in a big way", White would sell cars to customers from his Specialist Autos garage in Yeovil, steal them back and then change the identity of the cars before selling them again.

He was eventually trapped by Somerset Police working undercover on Operation Jaguar. After receiving his pools cheque, White, who had ticked the "no publicity" box on his entry form, said: "The whole thing has left me staggered.

"Most of the money will be invested but this win will certainly change my life and I will certainly be enjoying it to the full in the future."

White's pool win was the fifth largest in the country. He won his £2.25 million on a £6 stake.

Wife with PMT not guilty of killing

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN suffering from premenstrual tension who stabbed her husband to death in a row over £1.20 walked free from court yesterday after being found not guilty of manslaughter.

The jury at Liverpool Crown Court had heard how Jan Painter, 34, had been suffering from premenstrual tension when she stabbed her husband James, 44, with a kitchen knife on May 9. As he lay dying on the kitchen floor of their home in Moreton, Merseyside, she cradled his head and they spoke of their love for each other. His last words in hospital were: "She didn't mean it."

Rodney Klevan, QC, for the defence, had told the trial that the row over £1.20 which Mr Painter had taken from his wife's purse had been aggravated by her PMT. After she goaded him into slapping her across the face he was remorseful and tried to make up, but she waved him away with the knife and as he moved towards her he impaled himself upon it.

The jury also formally returned a verdict of not guilty to murder, as directed by the judge, Mr Justice Morland. Relatives wept and hugged each other at the verdict.

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Bashfuls refuse to kiss Snow White

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THERE is more than one Bashful in this year's Christmas panto. The boys playing dwarfs are too timid to kiss Snow White.

Two of the seven schoolchildren playing the dwarfs in the show at the Custom House Theatre in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, were not Happy when they discovered kissing was part of the act. The director has now had to rewrite the script to cut out the scene where Snow White kisses her small friends as they go off to work because the six-year-olds from local schools refused point blank to kiss a girl in public. They told Victoria Arbiter, who plays Snow White, that she could just whistle instead.

Miss Arbiter, 20, whose father Dickie is former press secretary to the Prince of Wales, said: "The boys were adamant they did not want to kiss me. Their little faces crumpled and they burst into tears. It got to the point where I even started feeling sorry for them, but at least I get to kiss the prince at the end of the show. The rest of the dwarfs are all girls and they aren't bothered, but the boys just didn't want to know. I didn't realise the prospect of giving me a peck on the cheek would horrify them so much. Neither of the boys plays Bashful but I think they would both have been ideal for the role.

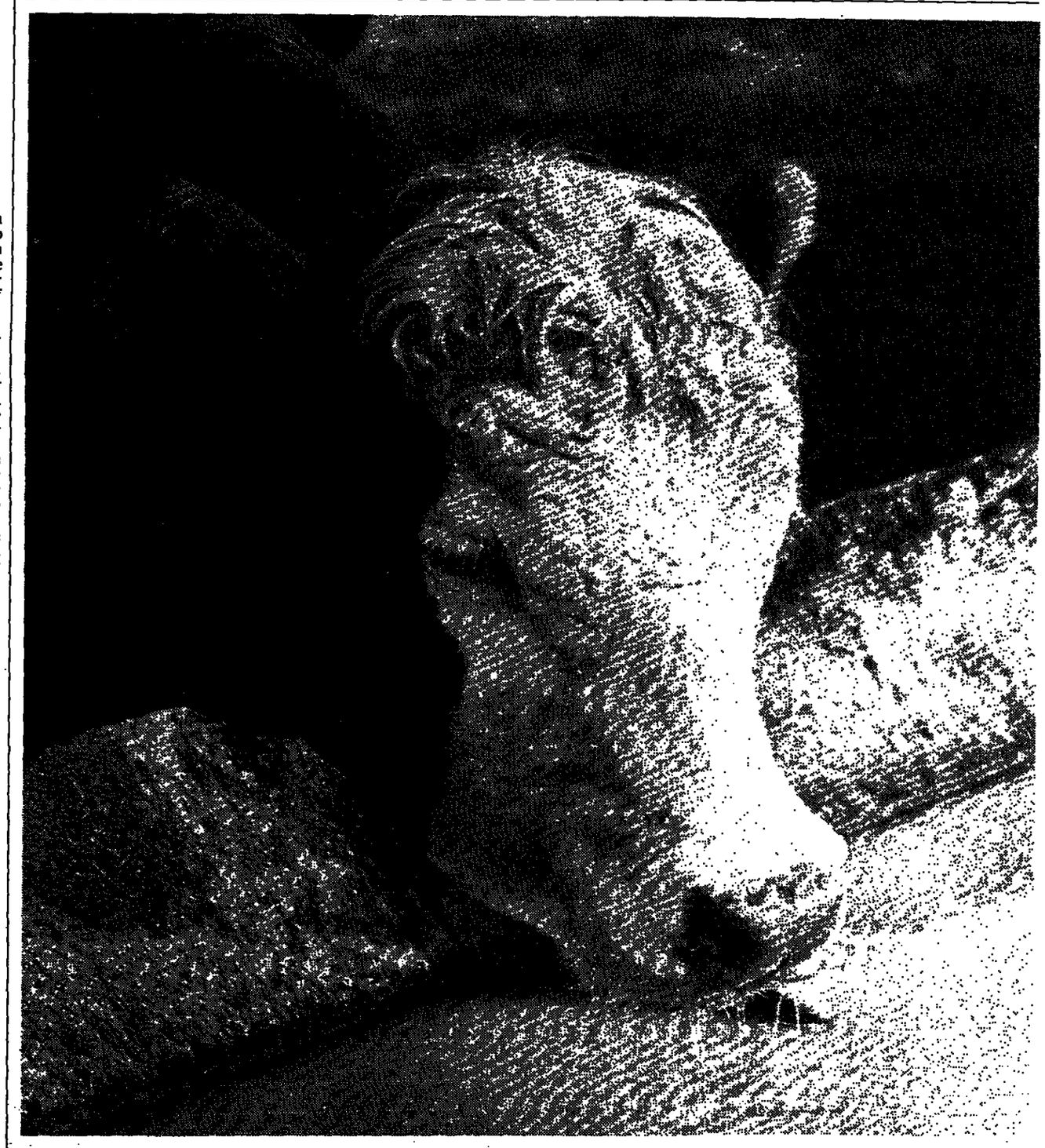


Victoria Arbiter: "the boys were adamant"

"They haven't hurt my pride too badly, but this is the first time I can remember when a young man has complained after I invited them to give me a kiss."

Her co-star, Billy Fane from the BBC TV children's series *Byker Grove*, said: "I know the dwarfs are only kids, but they must be daft not to want to kiss Victoria, she is a very nice young lady."

John Blackman, the producer said: "The dwarfs say they are lads, and lads don't kiss lasses. Cutting the scene will not really affect the show in any way."



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Taoiseach tries to allay Sinn Fein fears of Unionist agenda

Bruton and Adams vow to work for peace

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JOHN BRUTON, Ireland's new Prime Minister, met Gerry Adams yesterday to underline his Government's commitment to the Northern Ireland peace process.

The two men, who have done little in the past to hide their mutual antipathy, shook hands and smiled briefly before an extended meeting at Dublin's Forum for Peace and Reconciliation. Sinn Fein has viewed the election of Mr Bruton, the leader of Fine Gael, with alarm. The party is disappointed that Albert Reynolds, former leader of the republican Fianna Fail party, has been replaced by a man they regard as a Unionist who has no interest in promoting the so-called nationalist consensus.

Mr Bruton, who was a persistent critic of the IRA before its ceasefire, tried to allay nationalist fears yesterday in a series of interviews. He said: "I hope that my long-standing contacts on both sides of the political divide in Northern Ireland will help as well. I'm in favour of protection of the rights of all the people who live on this island."

The Taoiseach said that people in Northern Ireland could feel comfortable with the new coalition, which was concerned for their welfare. He said: "Have a very good Christmas — this is going to be the first Christmas of complete peace for a very long time."

Despite his smile yesterday, Mr Adams clearly felt uncomfortable with Mr Bruton, whose policy on Northern Ireland he described as "flawed". But Mr Adams tried to sound an upbeat note when he said it was time to leave prejudices behind, adding: "I have noted the very commendable role which Mr Reynolds has played in pushing peace process forward. I am sure Mr Bruton will want to apply himself with the same urgency to the talks."

Republicans have been concerned at the election of Mr Bruton because the political backing from Mr Reynolds's Government was one of the most important factors in persuading hardliners to support the IRA ceasefire. Mr Adams persuaded sceptics in the movement that a "pan-nationalist consensus", embracing Dublin, Washington and the SDLP, would put pressure on Britain to grant concessions if the IRA opted for an "unarmed strategy".

Some republicans now fear that this alliance is distinctly shaky. They are worried that Mr Bruton, who has argued for the amendment of the Irish Constitution's claim over Northern Ireland, has no interest in promoting the interest of nationalists. The dismal performance by President Clinton's Democratic Party in mid-term elections has weakened the American link.

John Major is expected to talk to Mr Bruton by telephone within the next week about the Northern Ireland peace process. David Blatherwick, Britain's Ambassador in Ireland, attended the forum in Dublin yesterday for the first time.



John Bruton, Ireland's new Prime Minister, meets Gerry Adams at Dublin Castle

Labour leader backs Major on Ulster

BY A STAFF REPORTER

TALKS with Sinn Fein cannot start until the IRA gets rid of its weapons, Tony Blair said during a visit to Northern Ireland yesterday.

"There must be absolutely no question at all of talks taking place with the threat of re-use of weapons hanging over those talks," the Labour leader said.

His comments mirror those of John Major, who has ruled out substantive negotiations while guns still circulate. The two sides are to have more exploratory dialogue in Belfast on Monday.

Mr Blair was in Northern Ireland for a briefing on the peace process from security chiefs, trade union leaders and politicians on all sides. He said he supported the Government's handling of the sensitive process of talking to political representatives of paramilitary groups and thought Downing Street's caution was justified. "It is important we move this peace process forward but everybody is aware how delicate and how sensitive it is. We have got to carry on bringing all parts of the community along with it," he said.

"It is very easy to sit back and criticise what the British Government is doing but I think we have got the balance right," he added.

☐ The Princess Royal met troops guarding the Maze prison during a visit to the province yesterday. She is Colonel-in-Chief of The King's Royal Hussars who guard the jail perimeter.

KEENE on CHESS

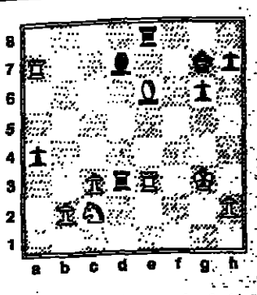
BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hunt shines

Harriet Hunt, the 16-year-old from Oxford, produced a superb performance for England in the Moscow Women's Olympiad, helping the team to sixth place. In this game she defeats an opponent from the Russian A team.

White: Hunt (England)
Black: Chumienka (Russia A)
Moscow Olympiad, 1994
Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	e5
6	Ndb5	d6
7	Bg5	a6
8	Na3	b5
9	Nd5	Be7
10	Bxf6	Bxf6
11	c3	Bb7
12	Nc2	Nb8
13	g3	Nd7
14	Bg2	0-0
15	0-0	g6
16	Nce3	Bg7
17	f4	exd4
18	gxf4	Qh4
19	a4	bxa4
20	Qxa4	Nc5
21	Qc2	a5
22	Rfd1	a4
23	Qf2	Qxf2+
24	Kxf2	Rab8
25	Nc4	Ba6
26	Nde3	Rfc8
27	Ra2	Bh6
28	Nxd6	Rd8
29	Kf3	Bf8
30	e5	f6
31	Kg3	fxe5
32	fxe5	Kg7
33	Rd5	Bxd6
34	exd6	Rbc8
35	Ra1	Bb5
36	Re1	Bd7
37	Nc2	Ne6
38	Bh3	Re8
39	Ra5	Rc6
40	Ra7	Rxd6
41	Bxe6	Rd3+
42	Re3	Black resigns



☐ In the final round of the men's event, Garry Kasparov, for Russia A, overran Artur Yusupov, who now represents Germany.

White: Artur Yusupov
Black: Garry Kasparov
King's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	Bg7
4	e4	d6
5	Nge2	a6
6	Ng3	Nbd7
7	a4	h5
8	Be2	e5
9	Be3	exd4
10	Bxd4	Ne5
11	h3	Qe7
12	f4	h4
13	Nf1	Nc6
14	Nd5	Qd8
15	Bc3	0-0
16	Nd2	Nxd5
17	cxd5	Nd4
18	0-0	Re8
19	Bd3	c6
20	f5	cxd5
21	f6	Bxf6
22	Nb3	dxe4
23	Rxf6	Qxf6
24	Bxd4	Qg5
25	Bc4	Bxh3
26	Qf1	Be6
27	Bxe6	Rxe6
28	Kh1	e3
29	Nc1	h3
30	Ne2	Re4
31	Qf3	hxg2+
32	Kg1	Qh4 white resigns

Winning Move, Weekend, page 23

Prison Service security chiefs face shake-up in wake of IRA jailbreak

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE director of custody in the Prison Service is to lose responsibility for security in jails in England and Wales after the breakout by five IRA men from Whitemoor prison. In addition, a review of the amount of property inmates may have in cells is under way after a report into the escape said that the volume of property hampered searches.

Philippa Drew, the director of custody, has been responsible for security in all 133 jails in England and Wales and for running half of them. Prison Service chiefs have decided this is too onerous a task for one person and are considering creating a directorate of security to be headed by an official with "hands-on" experience of running a prison.

The measures are among a number to be unveiled on Monday with the publication of the highly critical report by Sir John Woodcock, a former chief inspector of constabulary, into events leading up to the break-out in September of five IRA men and another prisoner from the the high security jail in March, Cambridgeshire.

Derek Lewis, the director-general in the prison service, is to survive in his £125,000-a-year job, but there is speculation about the future role in the Prison Service of Miss Drew and Philip Wheatley, assistant director in charge of the management of category A prisoners and those held in special secure units.

Miss Drew, 48, is being tipped for a move back to the Home Office and Mr Wheatley to the Northern Ireland Office. Miss Drew, a career civil servant with experience at the Foreign Office, Save the Children Fund and Home Office, had no experience of running a prison: Mr Wheatley has been a governor.

Andrew Barclay, governor at Whitemoor until earlier this year, is now working as a member of Judge Stephen Tumim's inspectorate of prisons. Brodie Clarke, governor at the time of the escape, has been at the prison since May.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will make a statement to MPs on Monday to coincide with publication of the report, which will itemise management, security and staff failings.

The five IRA terrorists and an armed robber broke out of the special secure unit armed with two handguns. They were recaptured within two hours. Two weeks later Semtex was found at the jail.

Second prisoner escapes

A PRISONER escaped yesterday at the jail from which a convicted murderer went on the run three days ago.

Stephen Read, 34, escaped from Coldingley prison near Woking, Surrey, hidden in a laundry van. He was convicted at the Old Bailey in 1992 of attempted robbery and possessing a gun.

Joseph Bagley, 41, who was serving a life sentence for murder, escaped from Coldingley on Tuesday while visiting a relative.

Howard rebuked by judge again

BY OUR HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD suffered yet another judicial rebuke yesterday when the High Court allowed two convicted murderers to challenge his decision to confirm their minimum sentences.

The High Court ordered a review of the case of two members of the Kashmiri Liberation Front who were jailed for life for murdering an Indian diplomat in Leicester in 1984.

Yesterday's setback for the Home Secretary follows reversals in the past five weeks over a scheme for criminal injuries compensation and the way the Home Office deals with miscarriages of justice.

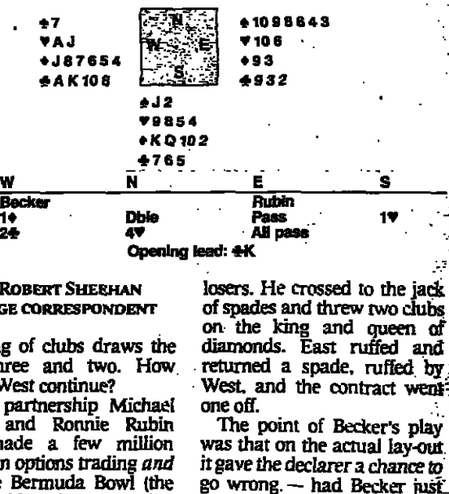
Lady Justice Butler-Sloss said the Home Office had failed to comply with principles laid down by the House of Lords when reaching its decision on the two men a year ago, and that Mr Howard's decision-making process was fatally flawed when, in December 1993, he upheld a minimum sentence of 25 years imposed on Abdul Qayyum Raja and 20 years on Mohammed Riaz.

She granted an application by lawyers acting for Raja, from Paris, and Riaz, from Leicester, for a review of the minimum terms set on their sentences. The initial minimum sentence was ten years for Riaz, 32, and 15 years for Raja, 37, but Douglas Hurd added ten years to each tariff when he was Home Secretary.

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, sitting with Mr Justice Latham, said in a written judgment that if a Home Secretary departed from judicial recommendations on the tariff, life prisoners were entitled to know the reasons.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer West — **Game all. IMPS**



W	N	E	S
Becker		Rubin	
1♦	Dble	Pass	1♥
2♣	4♥	All pass	

Opening lead: ♣K

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The king of clubs draws the four, three and two. How should West continue?

As a partnership Michael Becker and Ronnie Rubin have made a few million dollars in options trading *and* won the Bermuda Bowl (the world bridge championship). Not a bad team. The hand is from the teams event of the 1994 Olympiad. Becker could see little hope against Four Hearts but he devised a cunning trap. Instead of boxing on with clubs, he switched to a diamond.

South should not really have fallen for this, but in the event he thought he could see a way of making the contract even if he had two trump losers. He crossed to the jack of spades and threw two clubs on the king and queen of diamonds. East ruffed and returned a spade, ruffed by West, and the contract went one off.

The point of Becker's play was that on the actual lay-out it gave the declarer a chance to go wrong — had Becker just cashed his ace and king of clubs declarer would have had no option but to cross to the jack of spades to lead up to the king-queen of hearts. What slightly spoils the story is that if South had not had the jack of spades, the only defence would have been to play three rounds of clubs — declarer wins the third round, plays the king of hearts and West plays the thirteenth club to get a trump promotion.

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THEATRE TOKENS

هكذا من الأصل

Government outlines its schemes for the regulated education of all four-year-olds

Shephard proposes national curriculum for nursery schools

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MINISTERS are considering a national curriculum for the under-fives as part of a package of measures to implement John Major's pledge to provide a pre-school place for every four-year-old.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, is drawing up plans for a regulated system that will include state and private nurseries, and playgroups. The first places from the new initiative are expected to be available by 1996.

Senior civil servants from several government departments are investigating whether a curriculum could be agreed to draw together the different forms of provision. A working paper from the Education Department says the Government could either set targets for children's achievements or lay down what should be taught.

After six years of controversy over the school curriculum, ministers will be wary of attempting a detailed blueprint but they will need some criteria for assessing eligibility for a new national network of playgroups and nurseries.

The Pre-School Playgroups Association has a voluntary curriculum which outlines what children are expected to learn. It includes the ability to name shapes and colours, recognition of print as a vehicle to carry information, the acquisition of the skills and co-ordination needed for writing and drawing, and communication with other children and adults.

Margaret Lochrie, the association's chief executive, said: "There should be no difficulty agreeing a curriculum, whatever the differences in providers, because there is common ground about learning through play. What would be much harder is to anticipate how all these different organisations would work together."

But Sheila Lawlor, the deputy director of the Centre for Policy Studies, who advocates a voucher system, said: "Of course the Education Department would like to extend the curriculum downwards, but that really is not their business. There are so many different views of what is good for little ones, parents must be given the opportunity to choose what they think is right for their children."

The main pre-school organisations have already been asked for an account of their activities and their views on the Prime Minister's initiative. Stephen Byers, the Labour whip who was sent the task group's paper, said: "The whole exercise demonstrates that this cannot be done on the cheap, and it would be highly contentious to try to develop a curriculum in this area."

The remit for the Education Department's own task force, which is chaired by Michael Richardson, the head of the School Organisation Branch, stresses that the expansion must reflect parental choice and "secure good value for money". Mrs Shephard's proposals, to be published next year, will include a "regime of regulation and inspection".

ROBIN MAYES



Private nurseries, such as this one in Wandsworth, south London, would be brought into a national system

Heart attack 'league tables' censured

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

TABLES showing death rates from heart disease for 33 Scottish hospitals were published by the Government yesterday, amid complaints that the figures were misleading.

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, the Scottish Health Minister, said they were "not league tables of good and bad hospitals". He said: "This report provides no direct comparisons between hospitals and health boards either in relation to quality of care or the effectiveness of the services." Tables for England and Wales are expected to be published shortly.

Grampian Healthcare Trust and Fyfe Healthcare Trust attacked the report as unfair and misleading. They have the poorest statistics for deaths within 30 days of a heart attack. After statistical adjustments, 29 per cent of patients in Fyfe who were admitted to hospital suffering from acute myocardial infarction between 1990 and 1993 died within a month, as did 26 per cent of Grampian's patients. Only 15 per cent of heart attack patients admitted to Edinburgh's Western General Hospital died within 30 days.

Dr Robert Kendell, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, said hospitals were not directly comparable. The statistics did not take into account the general health of the patients or how long it took a patient to reach hospital.

The tables also give statistics on a number of other conditions, including death rates from cervical cancer, death from strokes, childhood incidence of measles, inpatient stays for children with asthma, deaths after broken femurs, deaths of psychiatric patients, and re-operation rates after prostate surgery.

Killer thought victim was Kray twin

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A SCHIZOPHRENIC released into the community stabbed a day-centre patient to death because he thought his victim was the former gangster Ronnie Kray.

Yesterday Stephen Laudat, 26, of Canning Town, east London, was sent to Rampton High Security Hospital for an indefinite term under the Mental Health Act. Judge Grigson described him at the Old Bailey as a danger to the public.

Laudat stabbed Brian Bennett 82 times in July before being disarmed by policemen. Mr Bennett, who also suffered from mental illness, acted as receptionist at a social services home. John Bevan, for the prosecution, said that Laudat, a former garage worker, had developed an obsession with the Kray twins and suffered from the delusion that as a child he had been abused and hit over the head by one of them. "He believed he was performing a public service in killing the man he believed to be Kray."



Laudat: has shown no remorse for crime

Laudat, who denied murder but admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility, was a paranoid schizophrenic who had suffered from mental illness since 1989. In 1991 he was jailed for four years for a series of knifepoint robberies in east London but was transferred to a psychiatric hospital in Hertfordshire, from which he was discharged in December last year when his sentence expired.

Laudat rejected psychiatric care and stopped taking medication. He agreed to after-care by the social services and started to attend a day centre in Stratford, east London. Mr Bennett had attended the centre, run by Newham council, for five years and helped with administration duties. He suffered from paranoid schizophrenia but received medication and regular injections. His daughter described him in a statement to the court as "gentle, kind and harmless".

Mr Bevan said that Mr Bennett was sitting in a common room at the day centre when Laudat "produced a knife and started to stab him. He was talking calmly, acting coldly and clinically. Mr Bennett screamed and tried to escape by getting underneath the table but Laudat continued to stab him in a frenzied way."

Colin Hart-Leverton, QC, for Laudat, said: "For the first time in my career at the Bar I find myself unable to put forward any mitigation for my client, who has sadly shown no remorse."

Ex-minister raises fears on safety

A FORMER Conservative Home Secretary raised concerns yesterday about the safety of the Government's care in the community policy.

Lord Carr of Hadley, who as Robert Carr was Home Secretary from 1972-74, said in the House of Lords: "There is in the country growing concern about the potential danger of psychiatric cases who are now often at liberty whereas in the old institutional days they were not."

Baroness Blatch, Home Office Minister, said that the department was "doing what it could" to tighten arrangements for releasing criminal psychiatric patients into the community.

Dangerous patient denied NHS bed

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A CROWN COURT judge criticised the Department of Health yesterday over the shortage of beds for psychiatric patients after he was unable to find a secure bed for a dangerous schizophrenic.

Judge Butler, QC, had to remand William Foran in custody at Brixton Prison for a week after learning that there were no spaces in a west London mental hospital. Foran, 35, has pleaded guilty at Southwark Crown Court to assault with intent to rob and wounding with intent after stabbing a fashion shop owner in the back with a chisel on April 19. He was being treated at Gordon psychiatric hospital in Victoria, southwest London, at the time he committed the offence.

In 1981 he bludgeoned his brother to death with an axe at the family home in Brixton, south London. He served a three-year prison sentence for manslaughter.

The judge said: "I am certainly very concerned as to the position. There appears to be a national shortage of beds. It is in every way unsatisfactory."

Judge Butler said he was puzzled that no apparent action had been taken despite recent condemnation of adequate psychiatric provision by another judge.

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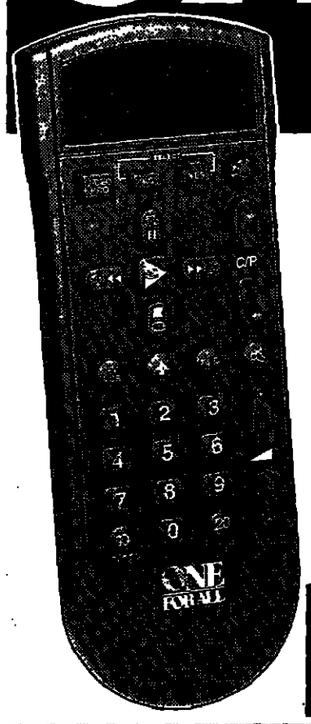
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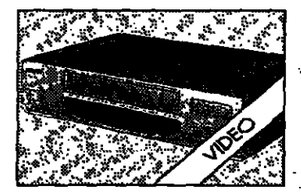
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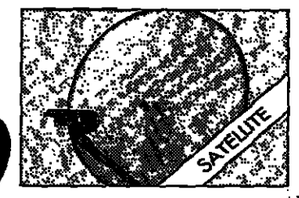
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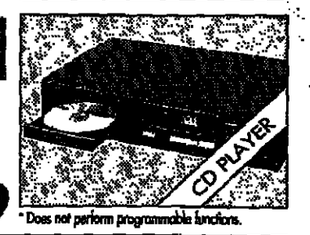
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Bargain hunters delay their Christmas buying to take advantage of late reductions

Prices tumble as shops compete for last-minute rush

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE great Christmas shopping rush has yet to begin as bargain hunters wait until the last minute to take advantage of a rash of early sales in the high street.

Though prices are tumbling by the day, stores do not expect shoppers to be out in force until the end of next week. Many are adjusting opening hours in anticipation of a last-minute mass shopping spree.

The food chain Asda is opening its store at Clapham Junction, south London, for 24 hours on Thursday and Friday, while other stores will stay open until 9pm during the week. All are making the most of the relaxation in Sunday trading hours to open for the maximum six hours tomorrow.

Harrods is opening on a Sunday tomorrow for only the second time in its history, but said it had no plans to continue Sunday trading after Christmas. Marks and Spencer, which is opening 80 per cent of its stores tomorrow, some of them for the first time on a Sunday, has discounts in several departments but will not be launching its main seasonal sale until January.

Some retailers are offering reductions of more than 50 per cent on toys, electrical goods and clothing, while others plan to launch sales on Christmas Eve.

The pre-Christmas reductions follow an appalling November for traders, especially clothing retailers whose traditional winter trade in coats, knitwear, scarves and gloves was hit by the mild weather. A spokesman for the British Retail Consortium said that canny shoppers had been waiting for retailers to reduce prices before Christmas, and had been proved right.

Fenwicks of Bond Street, central London, has dropped the price of nearly all its designer wear by 30 per cent this month, and clothes by names such as Betty Jackson, Cerruti and Jasper Conran are in the sale. House of Fraser has up to £30 off coats and £20 off party dresses.

Rumbelows has brought forward its January sale and taken more than £100 off some washing machines and televisions. Dixons, Currys and PC World are holding prices at 1993 levels for some goods and offering up to 50 per cent off others. Harrods and Harvey Nichols, however, are holding their prices until after Christmas.

Stores admit they face a tough Christmas after fragile consumer confidence was undermined by last week's interest rise and mini-Budget. Sarah Hewin, an economist with the American Express bank, said: "People are expecting an interest-rate increase and are much warier about bargains. They are not in the mood to go out to spend wildly in the way they have been at this stage in earlier economic cycles."

Some of the larger out-of-town shopping centres, however, claim to be bucking the trend. Alison Cooke, of the Meadowhall centre, Sheffield, said: "We've had record numbers of people and long queues at checkouts."

□ Branches of Marks and Spencer open tomorrow include York, Blackpool, Pudsey, near Leeds, and London branches at Marble Arch and Oxford Circus. Most shops in Oxford Street will be open, as will big stores around the country. The Lakeside shopping centre in Thurrock, Essex; the Merry Hill Centre near Dudley; the MetroCentre in Gateshead and Sheffield's Meadowhall will all open between 11am and 5pm tomorrow, and until 9pm during the week. All are closing around 5pm on Christmas Eve.

Photograph, page 16
Christmas events, Weekend, page 13



The Christmas lights in Regent Street, London, have been described as pathetic. Blackpool and Sunderland, however, are shining examples

Provincial displays leave London lights in shade

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

CHRISTMAS lights in the provinces and poorer parts of London are putting the West End and the City to shame this year.

In London there are stars atop the Shell-Mex building beside the Thames, but most other corporate headquarters are devoid of external Christmas cheer. In many parts of central London the only buildings with any sort of Christmas decor are those which have the builders in. Contracting companies still affix Christmas trees to their scaffolding, but even they have given up decorating their cranes.

Regent Street's lights publicise Cameron Mackintosh musicals, while Oxford Street's Christmas trees with white lights could diplomatically be described as discreet. "I think pathetic is a more fitting word," a local store manager said.

Jermyn Street's are similarly feeble, and although Bond Street's candles are better, the best advice to those in search of Christmas glitter is to go to areas such as Bethnal Green or Hackney, which have mounted more eye-catching displays than most to be seen in the West End. Brixton, in south London, is particularly brightly illuminated, having bought its second hand displays from Birmingham.

In the provinces Stratford upon Avon sets a shining example. The town council claims the best festive illuminations in the country, although some residents say that the £30,000 multi-coloured scrolls, crowns, lanterns and baubles are tacky. "They are absolutely disgusting," a theatre-goer said, "the most hideous Christmas lights I have ever seen. The engineer must have been colour blind. I've never seen anything so gaudy."

Mick Love, of Stratford council's Christmas committee, responded: "It has taken 13 years to build up this collection. These are the best lights in the country."

Sunderland and Blackpool, famous for illuminations, have sumptuous displays recycled from previous years. Sunderland's £70,000 effort is a galaxy of multi-coloured stars with flickering musical notes.

Blackpool's, a bargain set at about £55,000, adds teddy bears to the usual yuletide fare, and includes the three wise men in a gesture toward religious traditionalists.

Leading article, page 13

Costly warranties offer 'poor value'

BY SARAH BAGNALL

CONSUMERS are often paying too much for peace of mind when they buy extended warranties against the breakdown of electrical goods, according to the Office of Fair Trading and the Consumers' Association.

The price of extended warranties for the same product can vary markedly between retailers, the OFT said in a report published yesterday. For a Sony colour television KVX 2572 the cost of extra insurance ranges from nothing at John Lewis to £150 at Dixons and Currys.

However, consumers have little chance to find the best deal on extended warranties because few retailers display their prices. The exceptions include John Lewis and Argos.

Alternatively, consumers can obtain cover from manufacturers or independent insurance companies. For the Sony television the manufacturer's warranty costs £90. The problem is that consumers are often subjected to immense pressure by retailers to buy the warranty when they buy the goods, and details of the manufacturer's cover is hidden within the packaging.

Sometimes a customer might be better off not buying a warranty, the Consumers' Association said. The average repair cost of a large-screen colour television, video cassette recorder, camcorder, fridge-freezer and automatic washing machine is about £216, compared with the combined warranty prices of between £331 and £768.

Tree buyers told to shop around

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

UNWARY Christmas tree buyers, who leave their purchases to the last minute, could find themselves paying sky-high prices, trade sources said yesterday.

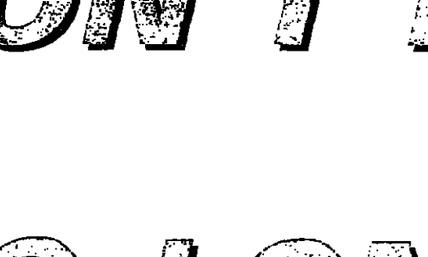
For those prepared to shop around, however, there are bargains. Prices in specialist garden centres in London can be up to three times as high as those charged by tree growers and small country nurseries, *The Times* has found.

Major-General Tony Richardson, secretary of the British Christmas Tree Growers' Association, said: "There is a quite extraordinary range of retail prices. Some trees are very expensive and others are being virtually given away. Yet the price charged by the grower has only gone up slightly since last year."

Norway spruce, with its rich green colour and evocative smell, remains the most popular choice, despite its tendency to shed needles, and will account for around 70 per cent of the 5.25 million Christmas trees worth £50 million likely to be sold this year.

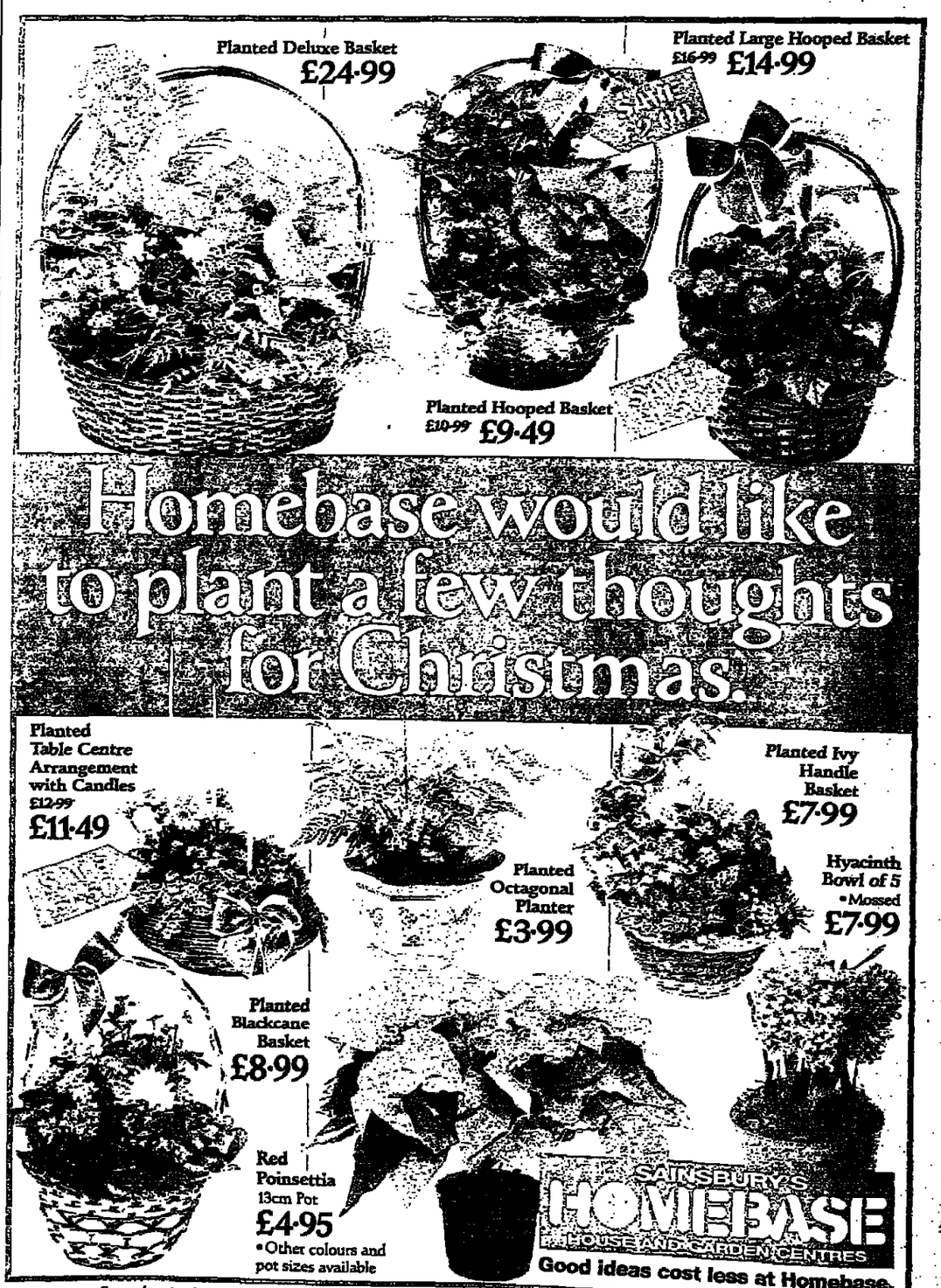
At Clifton Nurseries in London's fashionable Little Venice district, 6ft Norway spruces are being sold for £18.50 each. Mark Syms, who supplies Clifton from the 150 acres of trees he grows at Shamley Green, Surrey, offers the same product at his farm for £13.50.

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هكذا من الأصل

Archbishop defends secular side of Christmas

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTIANS should not complain about the secularisation of Christmas because the festival's quasi-secular character makes it popular; according to the Archbishop of York.

Criticising "religious purists", Dr John Habgood says: "For many people the Christmas stories still work their magic, not despite the clutter of associations which surround them, but because the clutter roots them in familiar experiences." Writing in *The House Magazine*, a weekly for MPs, he says: "Most people know where they are with birth and merrymaking, and can find a religious meaning in them, whereas more purely religious celebrations like Easter and Pentecost appeal mainly to the more devout."

While it is not quite true to say that Christmas as we know it today was invented by Prince Albert and Dickens, they certainly had a hand in shaping it, Dr Habgood says. But they were only repeating a pattern which goes back to its origins. While Saturnalia provided the cultural context in the 4th century, the Druids gave us mistletoe, the Saxons holly and "the carols were part of a popular medieval reaction against the excessive singing of litanies".



Habgood: festival has long had critics

Dr Habgood says this combination of the secular and religious has always had its critics, and at first the date was opposed because it identified Christianity with sun worship. Asking whether Christians should be worried that Christmas is so secular, he says the answer demands a closer look at the New Testament Christmas stories, which provide material "for what we can now identify as incipient secularisation".

Arguing that the historical accuracy of the Nativity stories is less important than the "fundamental theological claim" that Jesus is to be worshipped as the unique bearer of God's presence, he says: "Stories make mysteries accessible to the imagination." If the emphasis shifts from "what does this mean?" to "what actually happened?", the process of secularisation has begun, he argues.

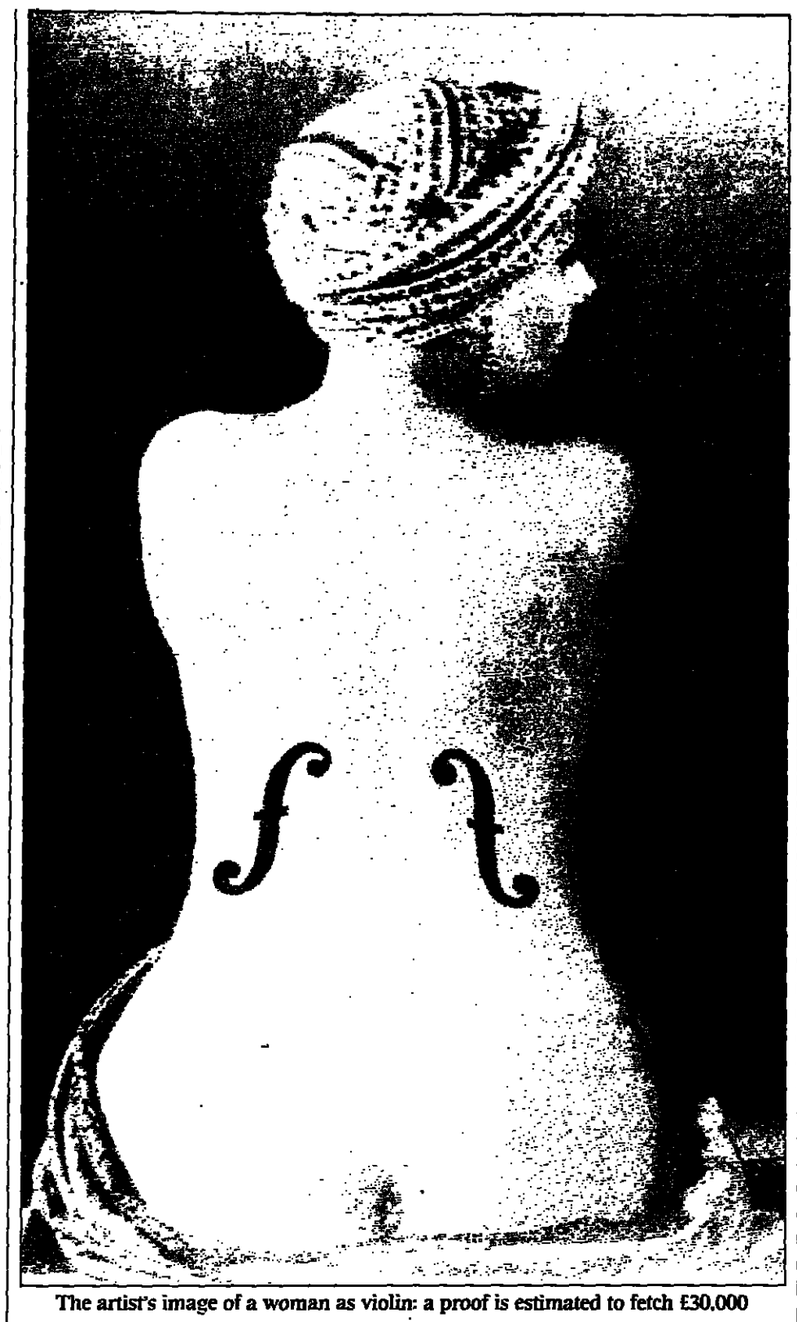
"The end result is to reduce a profound piece of religious symbolism to a gynaecological puzzle." But by adding symbolism from other sources, such as the death of the old year and symbols of fertility and eternity, secularisation can also work benignly.

Only by holding together secular and theological insights can Christmas remain relevant in a secular society, he says. "The idea that Christmas is *only* about a baby born in a manger is as disastrous as the idea that it is *only* about eating, drinking and spending too much. Pious sentimentality can evaporate as easily as frenetic jollification."

Dr Habgood says that a piety looking for answers can be as escapist as a jollity seeking relief from misery. "Both miss the vital conjunction between religion and secularity which Christmas, of all the great Christian feasts, most particularly symbolises — and thereby embodies the very meaning of Incarnation."

In a comment aimed at his parliamentary audience, Dr Habgood says that a Christmas well celebrated should sharpen the sense that faith must inform politics, "just as politics must help to ground faith in messy actualities". Christmas "recalls the presence of the transcendent in the midst of the ordinary" and is a guarantee of value in a secular world, he says. "It is also a judgment on the secular world for imagining that secularity by itself is enough."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 2



The artist's image of a woman as violin: a proof is estimated to fetch £30,000

Man Ray collection for sale

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A COLLECTION of 550 pictures, objects and photographs by Man Ray, the American Dadaist and one of the most influential artists of the century, is to be sold from the estate of his widow, Juliet, who died in 1991. The sale is expected to fetch about £3.2 million, though previous estimates for Man Ray have proved highly conservative.

After her husband's death in 1976, Juliet Man Ray turned the Paris studio they shared for 25 years into a surrealist shrine, keeping it exactly as Man Ray left it, with paintings haphazardly nailed to the walls. Among the works that she kept there were seminal paintings such as the sinister *Le Beau Temps* (1939), which Man Ray described as "the climax of my surrealist period". Photographs include a working copy of his female nude shaped like a violin, estimated at up to £30,000.

The sale is at Sotheby's in London on March 22 and 23.



Man Ray: his studio remained as shrine

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drinking linked to suicides

The Highlands has the highest suicide rate in Scotland, according to Scottish Office figures. The rate in the area is 23.2 per 100,000 people, compared with the lowest rate, in Shetland, at only 11.6 per 100,000 people. High alcohol consumption in the Highlands is thought to be a significant factor.

Refugee style

More than 1,000 items of fake designer sportswear confiscated by trading standards officers in Gloucester will be sent to refugees in Bosnia and Romania. A council spokesman said: "Our storerooms are overflowing with fake Adidas, Puma and Nike."

Harrier crashes

The pilot of a Royal Navy Sea Harrier ejected safely as he came in to land aboard the carrier *HMS Invincible* in the Adriatic. A Navy Board of Inquiry was immediately set up to investigate the cause of the crash but initial signs pointed to mechanical failure.

Church hold-up

A gang held a gun to man's head as they took hundreds of pounds from five pools collectors who were counting their takings at St Patrick's Church in Newport, Gwent.

'Sniffing' death

Police believe that 13-year-old Wayne MacDonald, found dying outside a pub in Worcester on Thursday night, may have been sniffing lighter fuel from a gas refuelling canister.

Scorpion alert

Environmental health officers in Hertfordshire have issued a warning after finding a deadly scorpion on sale at a pet shop in Stevenage. Up to 300 could be on sale nationwide.

Scott in peril

The Scott Monument in Edinburgh is in need of repairs estimated at £2 million after workmen found that a 1½-ton pinnacle on top of it was coming loose.

Spelling trap

Councillors have finally decided how to spell the name of their Welsh village. After years of dispute among residents Trap in Powys is to have one p not two.

Credo

We don't need to know it all

The Right Rev Richard Harries

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

This is the haunting refrain running through John Betjeman's Christmas poem but some who make their annual excursion to church this Christmas will have doubts not only about the Incarnation but about the reality of God himself. Human concepts of God have been so varied and contradictory and sometimes so appalling. Can we say anything for certain about what might lie at the heart of things?

The Sea of Faith group has focused this unease and it has been given popular expression in Anthony Freeman's book *God in Us*. With one slash of the post-modernist sword he cuts the Gordian knot of theological mystery. He simply suggests that the word God is nothing more than a symbol for our highest human values and ideals. I believe this approach to be fundamentally flawed, but it does highlight a number of important issues, one of which is the function of religious language. The language of religion cannot give us any kind of photograph or painting of spiritual reality. Its function is above all to help us to relate rightly to it. The teaching of Jesus, for example, calls on us radically to rethink our whole outlook (*Metanoia*), to trust the power behind the universe (*Abba*), to love, and to look for the consummation of God's just and gentle rule. This teaching does not describe reality but helps us to relate to it.



At the same time, Christian orthodoxy has been quite clear that human language, irrevocably metaphorical when talking about God, is always limited. As John Chrysostom put it in his sermon on John's prologue: "It is not sufficient by a single expression to set before men the doctrines concerning God, but it is desirable that we bring many together, and choose from each what is suitable. So shall we be able to attain to a worthy telling of his glory, worthy, I mean, as regards our power; for if any should deem himself able to speak words suitable to his essential worthiness, and be ambitious to do so, saying, that he knows God as God knows himself, he it is who is most ignorant of God."

There is a tradition within Christianity of not saying things. For, as W.H. Auden put it: "Truth, like orthodoxy, is a reticence."

Some who go to church this Christmas will be stabbed by nostalgia. The candles, the carols and laughter will evoke a half wish that it might be true, that it could be true. Yet in the cold dawn it can seem so incredible, so beyond our comprehension. Upholding all things, enfolding all and filling all is a spiritual reality to which we can relate. The language of Christian faith enables us to do that with a profound trust and an expectant hope which issues in an active love. The mystics teach us that the divine presence is a cloud of unknowing before whom we need to be still but to whom we can reach out in love. But this proper Christian unknowing appears different from the agnosticism engendered by post-modernism. In 1883 Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote to his friend Robert Bridges: "You do not mean by mystery what a Catholic does. You mean an interesting uncertainty ... But a Catholic by mystery means an incomprehensible certainty."

□ *Dr Richard Harries is Bishop of Oxford. His book* The Real God *is published by Mowbrays, £6.99*

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BT *It's good to talk*

Press chief Myers quits as Clinton fightback falters

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

DEE DEE MYERS, America's first female White House press secretary, announced her resignation yesterday. She leaves an Administration whose political slide President Clinton sought to reverse on Thursday night with an Oval Office address promising to rededicate himself to America's middle classes.

Ms Myers, a breezy 33-year-old Californian, was one of the earliest members of Mr Clinton's 1992 campaign team. She has loyally stuck with him through three extraordinarily traumatic years, and her departure now seems neatly to symbolise the collapse of all the hopes and dreams Mr Clinton took with him to Washington.

Ms Myers offered no reason for her Christmas departure, saying only that it was "time to move on". She was popular, but not especially effective, and in September she foiled an attempt by Leon Panetta, the White House Chief of Staff, to replace her with Mike McCurry, the State Department spokesman, only by appealing personally to the President. Mr McCurry is now favourite to succeed her, though her departure leaves a White House which is committed to racial and sexual diversity conspicuously short of prominent women.



Myers: loyal member of campaign team

Ironically, Mr Clinton had used his address to try to resurrect his dreams, and with them his tattered presidency. He proposed $60 billion (£38 billion) of middle-class tax breaks over the next five years financed by cutting the federal government. He disinterred his campaign pledge to return government to the people, revived his popular electoral theme of greater personal responsibility, and paid renewed homage to ordinary Americans. However, he failed to generate any enthusiasm in a country whose confidence he has largely squandered.

Having lost control of Congress last month, Mr Clinton is no longer in a position to deliver on his promises. Indeed, his tax-cut proposals paled alongside the more generous middle-class tax breaks, totalling $107 billion, that the incoming Republican revolutionaries plan to enact when they take charge on Capitol Hill next month.

His rush back to the political centre was widely viewed as mere political expedience, with an instant *ABC News* poll showing only 29 per cent believed his tax-cut plan reflected his true convictions. *USA Today* argued: "If the middle class needed tax relief so badly, why didn't Clinton propose this 'Middle Class Bill of Rights' during his first two years in office instead of waiting until after massive Republican victories?"

The Republicans claimed the President was now lamely following their agenda, pointing out that before last month's elections he had resisted tax cuts. "Welcome aboard," gloated Fred Thompson, who last month seized Vice-President Al Gore's old Tennessee Senate, in the Republicans' official response. A *New York Times* editorial said Mr Clinton had, in 23 months, "skidded from initiator to imitator".

Economists feared Mr Clinton's diminished commitment to deficit reduction would drive up interest rates, more than offsetting any tax cut benefits. Even some Democrats were lukewarm.

Mr Clinton's address was aimed at the suburban parents who deserted his party in droves last month. He proposed a $500 tax credit for each pre-teen child in families earning below $75,000 a year; a $10,000 tax deduction for further education for families earning up to $120,000; and help for large expenses such as medical emergencies or house purchases. This would be financed by a continued spending freeze and radical consolidation of the Housing, Energy and Transportation departments.



President Mandela with an admirer yesterday as he toured Eiderdale township near Bloemfontein. Speculation is mounting about who will succeed him

ANC summit faces row over reforms

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN PRETORIA

THE African National Congress begins its first post-election conference today against a background of mounting frustration over the slow pace of reform and behind-the-scenes manoeuvring by President Mandela to ensure that the party presents a united front.

High on the agenda will be the election of ANC officers by the 3,000 delegates at the Bloemfontein conference. The outcome, expected on Wednesday, will serve as a guide to President Mandela's succession.

The future ANC leadership has been the subject of intense speculation recently. The spotlight has been on Cyril Ramaphosa, ANC Secretary General, and his decision to contest the ANC deputy presidency to be vacated by Walter Sisulu and most likely to be filled by Thabo Mbeki, the First Deputy President.

A bigger problem will be managing criticism of the ANC's failure to meet promises to improve jobs and housing.

Meanwhile, thousands of Afrikaners gathered yesterday at low-key cultural events across South Africa to mark the last official Day of the Vow — the most sacred anniversary in their calendar — and mourn the passing of white rule.

Men, women and children, many in traditional dress, joined prayers and singing to mark the battle of Blood River in 1838. According to chroniclers, 530 Boer farmers took a vow to always keep the day holy if God delivered victory against Dingaan's 10,000-strong Zulu army. More than 3,000 Zulus were slaughtered, while three Boers were slightly wounded.

In keeping with the new South Africa, the Government has decreed that from next year the anniversary will be known as the Day of National Reconciliation.

Afrikaner organisations have vowed to continue to recall the anniversary as the Day of the Vow. The theme was taken up yesterday by Eugene Terre'Blanche, leader of the racist Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) at a rally in Brandfort. He also pleaded for the release of 25 AWB members who go on trial next month charged in connection with a series of pre-election bomb blasts.

FBI finds sabotage on five jumbo jets

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE FBI has reported evidence of sabotage on five Tower Air jumbo jets at John F. Kennedy airport in New York.

Investigators say that over the past three months wiring connected to vital systems has been severed in the Boeing 747s, making the aircraft dangerous to fly, *New York Newsday* reported yesterday.

The sabotage was discovered when Tower Air crews conducting pre-flight checks found that cockpit instruments were giving wildly inaccurate readings. The saboteur was obviously familiar with the 175 miles of wiring in a jumbo jet and if the aircraft had taken off the results could have been disastrous.

Morris Nachtomi, owner of Tower Air, said that because the tampering was discovered before take-off "there was never any question with respect to flight safety". Tower Air offers regular flights to Israel and terrorism has not been ruled out as a motive, but the FBI is also considering the possibility that the saboteur is a disgruntled employee.

Meanwhile three days after an American Eagle flight crashed in North Carolina, killing 15 people, the airline temporarily cancelled flights in Chicago and other Midwestern cities on Thursday after pilots said they wanted more training on cold-weather flying. Investigators suspect that icy weather may have contributed to a disaster in October, in which an American Eagle ATR-72 crashed, killing all 68 people on board.

Anti-Nazi hunters stalk the Internet

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

WHITE supremacists who use computer bulletin boards to spread racism and recruit followers are being targeted by one of America's best known anti-Nazi groups.

The Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre has written to Vice-President Al Gore and an on-line information service, Prodigy, demanding action to police the so-called information "superhighway". Enclosed with the plea is anti-Mexican and anti-Semitic material freely available on the vast and unregulated computer network known as the Internet.

One of the claims disseminated on the network is that the Holocaust never took place. "Some of the more sophisticated bigots have discovered that this is a wonderful way to recruit and get their message across in an unfiltered fashion," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the centre's associate dean.

The proliferation of "group bashing" on the Internet was brought to the rabbi's attention by a local politician who stumbled on a message urging readers to send "minority parasites packing to fend for themselves", while browsing through a Prodigy "News Forum".

"We have more than 1.7 million notes on the board at any given time," a Prodigy spokesman told the *Los Angeles Times*. "We can't read them all." The service has agreed to train its staff to recognise the output of some 250 "hate groups" operating in America.

Dogged defence

BY BEN MACINTYRE

SMOKEY, a five-year-old black Labrador sentenced to death for chasing postmen in Virginia, has a list of defenders most Death Row inmates can only dream of. Among them are Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, and hundreds of outraged American pet-lovers.

Dr Kissinger, who also owns a Labrador, even appeared on national television to defend Smokey. "Restore the dog to the owner and tell the mailman to take a different route," he said on *American Journal*, a television programme.

Postal workers say Smokey is a menace, and threatened to stop deliveries to the street. His defenders insist that, although he may have chased postmen, he never actually bit any. Now the state's Commonwealth Attorney is to ask the judge for a pardon.

هكذا من الأصل

Hunt firm defends elephant killings

FROM SAM KILEY IN ARUSHA

A TANZANIAN hunting company responsible for the safaris in which four semi-tame elephant bulls were killed yesterday defended its actions and said it would do the same again if it got the opportunity. The elephants had crossed into Tanzania from Kenya where they were protected from hunting by law.

Investigations by *The Times* in Arusha, the centre of Tanzania's hunting industry, show that three of the bulls were shot in August and October, by two Germans, Klags Hillescheid and Utz Ritmeir. The fourth elephant was shot by an American, Darrel Mitchell, on December 4.

"He [Mitchell] came here specifically to shoot an elephant, and once he had done that he flew home. We have arranged to ship his trophies," said Peter Biabato, a director of Northern Hunting Enterprises, which organized the $50,000 (£33,000) hunts.

The killing of the elephants was legal under Tanzanian law but has been condemned as unsporting by hunters and conservationists because the bulls, all of which had tusks weighing around 80lbs each, were used to people at Kenya's Amboseli National Park, where they normally lived.

Mr Biabato said the elephants "did not carry passports", and that they were as much Tanzania's as Kenya's. "They were of the correct size [with tusks of at least 1.75 metres or 75kg (165lbs) per pair], and they were in Tanzania. We had a licence to shoot them, and there is no reason why we should not shoot others," he said.

One of the dead elephants, named "RBG", was shot a few miles inside Tanzania. Northern Hunting Enterprises had established a camp along the frontier to shoot Amboseli's big tuskers when they made their annual migration. The licences to shoot elephant cost $4,000 and are only issued to hunters on a 21-day safari costing an average of $50,000.

"I am absolutely desperate about this situation. The hunting season lasts until the end of March and we could lose all the big bulls in the west of Amboseli," said Cynthia Moss, who has been studying the elephants for two decades.

Will Travers, director of the Born Free Foundation in Britain, said yesterday he was investigating ways to provide an "early warning system" so that elephants crossing into Tanzania could be more closely monitored by the Kenya Wildlife Service.

"It's a very big area. But unless we do something, the remaining big bulls, of which there are only about five, could be shot any day," he said.

The African Wildlife Foundation, which is handling millions of dollars donated by the American Government for wildlife management in Tanzania, has launched a ten-day review of its projects and may also cut funding unless the Tanzanian authorities give an undertaking to stop elephant hunting in areas bordering Kenya, where hunting is banned.

Mr Biabato said that photographs and a video of the shootings would be used in promotional displays for his company in Germany and the United States next year.



Veterans watch the memorial ceremony in Bastogne, southern Belgium, to mark the Second World War's Battle of the Bulge, 50 years after Hitler launched a last desperate push against Western allies. The German siege of Bastogne was lifted in December 1944

Chechens harbour romantic hope of British backing

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN GROZNY

CHECHENS have a special way of making British correspondents feel guilty.

As one Chechen fighter, Major Hassan Bibulatov, said: "The Chechens are especially disappointed that England has not helped us in our struggle for freedom, because our legends say that we are descended from the same race as the English, and that one day an English king will come to rule over us."

Such legends exist among older Chechens, and have a curious ancestry, in which *The Times* played a small part. They seem to date to the 1830s when the Chechens and other Caucasian peoples were fighting against Russian conquest while imperial rivalry between Britain and Russia was also growing.

Belief in the British link was revived in the early 1900s when British engineers arrived to begin the development of the Grozny oil fields. Some misplaced-looking Victorian buildings in central Grozny are also their work.

From 1830 on, the Foreign Office had begun to look for ways to encourage the Caucasians in their fight against Russia, to check Russian expansion, southwards and eastwards towards the British empire. In a typical operation of its kind Lord Palmerston, the then Foreign Secretary, launched a half-hearted initiative using unofficial emissaries.

The agents themselves, however, were motivated both by opposition to Russian intervention and by romantic sympathy for the Caucasian mountaineers. Some of them, such as David Urquhart and James Bell, were Scots who felt a Highland affinity with the Chechens and Circassian clans.

Until the Foreign Office recalled him after Russian protests, Urquhart, a former British diplomat whom the Caucasians called Daud Bey, organised an operation to run ships to the Caucasians past the Russian blockade of the Black Sea coast. The visits of Britons such as Urquhart encouraged the Caucasians to think both that Britain would one day come to their help with overwhelming force, and that an outside power such as Britain could help them overcome their endless internal divisions.

Bell records that a Circassian prince told him how Urquhart had first inspired his people with the idea of uniting with other Caucasians under one government.

Among the British travellers was a *Times* correspondent, J. A. Longworth, who in 1840 published a book entitled *A Year among the Circassians*. In it he wrote how a chieftain said goodbye to him, "so then you are leaving us Bey, forever. Happily for you, you have a country to go to where you may live in peace and where there is no dread of the Muscovite. We, alas! have no other home to fly to: nor if we had, would we leave the land of our forefathers which Allah has given us, and for which it is our duty to."

Chechens still talk like that. Today President Dudayev and his supporters, under the influence of a mixture of Islamisation and the West's failure to support Chechen independence, have become bitterly anti-Western.

Harder to bare than their hatred and contempt, however, is the gratitude and emotion of those Chechens who believe that Western correspondents here can make a big differences.

This week, an old Chechen in the civilian crowd confronting Russian tanks at Davydenko blessed me for my presence and, and embracing me, declared: "When you go back to England, tell them that although we Chechens do not want war, we have nowhere to go but here and so today we have no choice but to fight and die".



Imam Shamyl, a 19th-century guerrilla in the North Caucasus who fought a brilliant 20-year campaign against the Tsar. A Dagestani, he wanted to unite Chechens and other Muslims. Russia said he was armed by Britain, a claim denied by him but backed by agents' work there

TEACHER'S
WITH ICE,
SNOW, RAIN
and
HOWLING GALES.
TEACHER'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
A measure of character

Romanian tells of exile disillusion

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

DAN ANTAL, a Romanian who claims distant ties to Vlad the Impaler, spent years dodging the attentions of the Securitate secret police and plotting to realise his "obsession" by escaping to Britain.

Yet when he stood outside the home of George Best, his great hero, he felt a lifelong ambition become disillusioned reality. Antal has written *Out of Romania*, a first-hand account of the paranoid madness of life under the late dictator Ceausescu, and had wanted to present a copy to the former footballer.

"I couldn't believe it, the house was almost derelict," he said. "How can a man who was so famous ten or so years ago live in a half-derelict house? I was too shocked, I couldn't bring myself to knock on the door, so I just left the book and went away."

Antal is typical of many East Europeans who yearned to live in the West and then suffered disillusion. "England was my dream, my obsession. Imagine a bear which spends all its time trying to get out of its cage; after being let out, it has no reason to exist. Now I miss my cage," he said.

Antal moved to Britain in 1990, the year after Romania's revolution, and is now married to an English wife, Susan. In common with many others, he sees his country's 1989 upheaval more as a coup than a revolution, since President Iliescu was a minister under Ceausescu.

His book portrays the madness of life under the Ceausescus as being as rich in comedy as it was in fear and misery. He describes how the late autumn trees in one Romanian town had green-painted paper leaves tied to their branches in honour of a visit from the dictator.

He also tells how a huge triangular building complex had to be ripped down after completion because a large crane had been left inside. "When I was young enough not to be scared, we were laughing every day," he said.

One day, while he was still at school and after an evening spent in a locked and curtained room listening to Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple and the Rolling Stones, Antal says: "I went so far as to write on the blackboard the three fateful words 'John Lennon' and 'Freedom'. Then I drew the Ban the Bomb sign.

"A few days later, the phone rang at home. I still remember my mother's white face as she put the receiver down. It was the Securitate . . . "

In London, Antal says he feels "the guilt of being a survivor. Now, in a pub, I think, 'What am I doing here?' I have never been as lonely as I have been in London."

Out of Romania is published by Faber at £14.99.

Spanish war on smugglers puts Rock under siege

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN GIBRALTAR

THE clatter of a helicopter echoed around Gibraltar before dawn yesterday, breaking the silence that reigns over the Rock at night since the British garrison began leaving in 1985.

The Spanish police are to blame. Under a misty moon, the helicopter's searchlight panned across the water, searching for launches smuggling tobacco and drugs to the mainland.

"The helicopter logged 54 attempts by speedboats to land on the beach at La Linea and managed to stop 18," a spokesman for César Braña, the new civil governor of Cádiz province, said.

Gibraltar is under virtual siege. As well as the helicopter patrols, Señor Braña has imposed strict border controls, which cause delays of up to seven hours, in protest at the failure of the Gibraltar authorities, under Joe Bossano, the Chief Minister, to deal with the smuggling. Mr Bossano last night bowed to pressure from London and agreed immediately to adopt EU directives concerning money-laundering and drug-running. The moves coincide with the annual meeting between Britain and Spain on the future of the Rock. Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister, meets Douglas Hurd in London on Tuesday.

Smuggling has long been a tradition in Gibraltar and the latest allegations from Spain that Europe's last colony is a haven for *contrabandistas* and money laundering is considered old hat by locals on both sides of the border. Yesterday the smugglers were undeterred. Alongside Le Coq D'Or, the bar overlooking the marina at Waterside Gardens, one of about 40 launches was being loaded with Winston cigarettes. Boxes of 50 cartons were cut in half and tied with string in a small warehouse, guarded by an Alsatian.

Inside, an earnest young man counted wads of money after selling thousands of cigarettes to Spanish smugglers from La Linea, just the other side of Gibraltar's airport runway. "The cargo has to lie low in the boat," a young Gibraltarian said. "The other day one boat was buzzed really low by the helicopter. The Spanish police shouted: '*Parate, llanito!*' ('Stop, plain dweller', the Spanish nickname for the inhabitants of the Rock). He did not and they almost knocked him into the sea. But since they've killed one of our lot that way, they're a bit more careful now."

Most vessels are Phantom 21 speedboats, equipped with 200hp outboard engines. It is a lucrative business: young men in dark glasses sport gold Rolexes as they fix deals on portable phones.

Uniformed British customs officials have a prime view of the illicit trade from their harbour entrance office. But the tobacco enters Gibraltar legally, bringing the Government about £16 million this year, a fifth of total revenue. Customs officials can do nothing because the smugglers are not breaking Gibraltar law.

However, the most embarassing aspect for Britain, which runs Gibraltar's police and customs, is that about a third of the launches also collect hashish from Morocco and deliver it to Spain, some of it finally destined for Britain.



Bossano: finally agreed to adopt EU directives

☐ **London complaint:** The Earl of Arran, for the Government, told the Lords yesterday that Spain should end its "intolerable" frontier controls on the Gibraltar border.

Go-ahead for atom smasher

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR, AND SHARMILA DEVI IN GENEVA

THE world's biggest atom smasher was yesterday given the go-ahead by the Council of the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (Cern) in Geneva.

Agreement came after France and Switzerland — over whose territory the huge machine will run — agreed to pay an increased share of the cost. But to ensure that the cost of the machine, a large hadron collider (LHC), could be met within Cern's budget, the programme was stretched out.

Completion will be in 2008, with a first stage running by 2004, unless America, Japan, Canada and other countries commit funds individually or severally to enable the earlier date to be met. Cern could afford to be relaxed about the timsecale because the rival American machines, the superconducting supercollider, has been cancelled. There is thus no rival in sight of the LHC for studies into the ultimate structure of matter and the nature of mass.

The Cern director-general, Christopher Llewellyn Smith, said: "The decision is a major step for the future of high-energy physics and Cern." More than 6,000 scientists from around the world use the particle accelerators at Cern.

file

CHARLES BREMNER ■ PARIS

Suicides darken last days of the ancien regime

The suicide of another retainer has further darkened the twilight of the Mitterrand regime. The casualty this time was not of the rank of Pierre Bérégovoy, the former Prime Minister who shot himself last year, or of François de Grossouvre, the presidential confidant who followed suit this year. But the hanging of Captain Pierre-Yves Guézou is in its own way more damning for the Socialist President than the demise of his high-placed courtiers.

Guézou was an honourable gendarme whose misfortune had been to serve in the President's "anti-terrorist cell". This operated from the Elysée Palace throughout the 1980s as a dirty tricks squad that was beyond the control of France's already lavish domestic spying agencies. Led by Major Christian Prouteau, a glamorous "super-gendarme", the Mitterrand plumbers were bunglers of the Inspector Clouseau school. They were exposed for planting explosives and other evidence on Irish suspects who spent nine months in prison and they were implicated in skulduggery in New Caledonia. They were also suspected of spying on M Mitterrand's opponents and friends.

Proof came last year when *Libération* published records of bugged telephones that belonged not to state enemies but to public figures including journalists, a lawyer and Carole Bouquet, the film star. The interest in the actress apparently stemmed from her friendship with Jacques Attali, the former European banker who was M Mitterrand's policy adviser.

The Elysée team had been disbanded amid scandal in 1988, but had escaped any sanction. M Prouteau was promoted to prefect-at-large and ran the security at the 1992 Olympics. Gilles Menage, the Mitterrand aide who supervised the cell, now heads Electricité de France, one of the top posts of the elite. However, with M Mitterrand's powers of protection waning, the past returned last week to haunt the Elysee team. An examining judge put M Ménage, M Prouteau, a gendarme general, a senior counter-intelligence officer and Captain Guézou under investigation on suspicion of breaching the privacy law. The charge proved too much for Guézou, who took his own life.

His colleagues depicted him as an upright soldier who could not stand seeing his honour impugned. His job had been simply to summarise telephone conversations at the Inter-Ministerial Control Group, the unit in the basement of the Invalides on the Left Bank that monitors telephones for the police intelligence service and the DST, the French MI5. The bugging centre, which inherited the sewer-based equipment left by the Gestapo, came to light in 1991 when the Government passed the first law to regulate wire-tapping. Its officers now legally listen in on the chatter of about 3,000 or 4,000 telephones each year.

Guézou is being depicted by the Mitterrand camp as another victim of vengeful judges and newspapers, those "dogs" whom the President said devoured Bérégovoy. M Ménage has blamed *Le Monde* for reporting the case and he says his own prosecution is scandalous. If the case comes to trial, M Ménage says he will say nothing on the ground of state secrecy.

For those who once had high hopes for the left-wing presidency, the bugging affair is another sorry comment on a 14-year rule that is fading away in the shadow of death, disease and scandal. A cruel swipe came this week from fellow socialist Jacques Delors. Explaining why he was renouncing the chance of the presidency, he said he had no ambition to be a "roi fainéant", an idler king.

☐ *France's official spies are not very discreet these days. The DST, France's equivalent of MI5, has thrown open its doors to celebrate its 50th anniversary. More oddly, Guy Azais, the deputy chief of the DGSE, the foreign intelligence service, has joined the craze for pseudo-aristocratic surnames. The official gazette says that from now on he will be called Guy Azais de la Garde de Chambonas. Smiley would not have approved.*



"Usually I get a better idea of what's going on". *Le Monde* pokes fun at Delors' presidential delays and Mitterrand's bugging scandal

Left Bank learns from Hollywood

To put it mildly, the French film industry does not like taking lessons from Hollywood, so there was much spluttering when it was learnt that the Americans had been allowed to wield their scissors on *La Reine Margot*.

The film was the year's Gallic flagship, which means it conformed to the profile of being a very long, very expensive, over-wrought epic of the costume variety starring Gérard Depardieu or Isabelle Adjani or preferably both.

The official film carries the flag at Cannes: patriotic duty drives the citizens to see it and the critics have the task of struggling to find ways to avoid the word boring.

When it came out in the spring of this year, *La Reine Margot*, a £17-million melodrama of lust, blood and poison starring Adjani, was so turgid that it made *Germinal*, the gruesome coalmine opera of last year, look like a romantic comedy. In addition, it lasts nearly three hours.

Unbound by political correctness, *Variety* damned it at Cannes with a simple headline: "Bloody Margot Fails to Fascinate". Since *Margot* has lost money and the heavily subsidised French industry is desperate to export, Claude Berri, the producer, accepted the demand by Miramax, the American distributors, for a total re-edit. American screenings had simply put the audience to sleep.

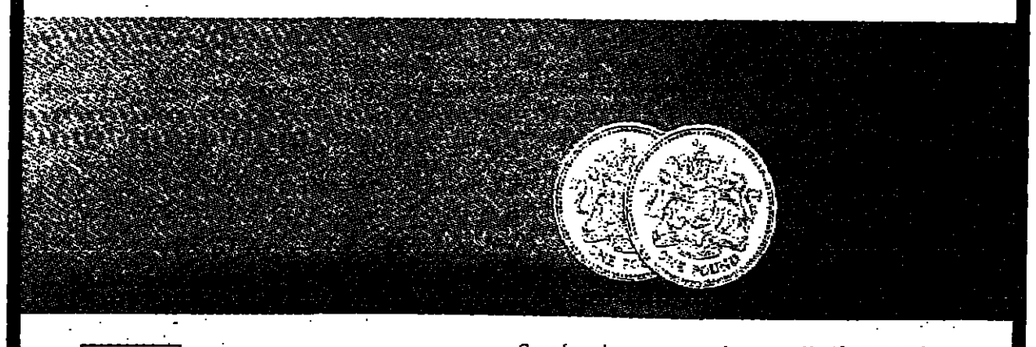
"How dare they!" was the first reaction among the *auteurs* of the Left Bank, a breed that does not even let its own producers touch its offspring. But the result of the 190 cuts and added music has been so impressive that M Berri and Patrice Chéreau, the director, have swallowed their pride and are now singing the praises of Yankee know-how.

"There is no shame in listening to the Americans," M Chéreau said. "It is true they push hard ... But their cinema works and we have things to learn from them."

Even the notoriously difficult Adjani, who makes a film only every few years, is full of praise, saying that *Margot* is now "much more romantic". To crown it all, the slimmed-down *Margot* is about to be relaunched on the French public. It opens on Boxing Day in America, where it will have the extremely rare task of competing with a French film that is already number five at the local box office. Luc Besson's *The Professional*.

However, Jacques Toubon, the Gaullist Culture Minister, is not crowing over Besson's hit because the film is not only made in English and set in New York, but it is also a gore-sodden tale of serial murder that makes *Natural Born Killers* look like *Howard's End*.

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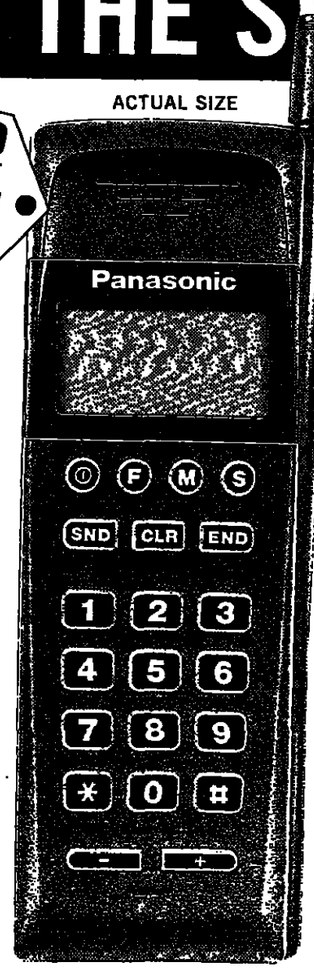
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هكذا من الأصل

Offer to Rao of Cabinet resignations over bribery

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

AT LEAST 18 Indian ministers have offered to resign to allow P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, to reshuffle his Cabinet and revamp his junior ministerial team without appearing to single out ministers tainted by corruption scandals. Since ministers known to have made illegal fortunes are defying his private exhortations to quit, it is a device to which he may soon resort.

Political corruption has rarely been a big issue in India, since it is generally assumed to be rampant. The difference this time is in the immense scale and brazenness of fraud, leading to the conclusion that the present Government is perhaps one of the most corrupt since independence 47 years ago.

There was pandemonium in parliament this week over the Government's refusal to table the full report of an official investigation into a multi-billion-rupee sugar scandal. The administration, which is clearly bent on trying to protect ministers accused of taking bribes, was forced to compromise yesterday by depositing the report in the parliamentary library.

It is now known that a sugar shortage was engineered so that the shop price almost doubled, to the delight of sugar barons. Huge quantities of sugar were imported at high prices to overcome shortages, costing the exchequer 50 billion rupees (£1.3 billion).

The official inquiry suggests that Kalpanath Rai, the Food Minister, was principally responsible. Nevertheless, he has refused to resign, despite a chorus of criticism in the press yesterday.

Paradoxically, the only minister to quit so far has been A. K. Antony, the Minister for Civil Supplies, who has a rare reputation for honesty. His ministry was criticised for its handling of the sugar affair. Several newspapers said in editorials it was outrageous that one of the only honest men in the Cabinet had quit while the "crooks remain in power".

There is also continuing controversy over a £770 million stock exchange fraud in which government funds were invested for personal speculation. Nobody has been prosecuted, and the Central Bureau of Investigations has almost certainly been warned off at the highest levels, casting a shadow over the integrity of the Prime Minister's office.

Two senior politicians, Rameshwar Thakur, the Rural Development Minister, and B. Shankaranand, the Health Minister, have been linked to the stock exchange scandal, which surfaced last year. They are also resisting pressure to resign. The Prime Minister's reluctance to sack them reflects his fear of further dividing an already fragmented team battered by election defeats and facing five state elections early next year.



Revellers in Phnom Penh celebrate the fertility of the Tonle Sap lake. But the "heart and soul" of Cambodia is under threat, and the country's food supplies are in jeopardy

Mud and greed choke life out of Cambodian lake

FROM PETER O'SULLIVAN AND MATT LIPSEY IN PHNOM PENH

AS THOUSANDS of Cambodians flooded into Phnom Penh, the capital, to celebrate the fertility of the Tonle Sap lake recently, few realised that the unique ecosystem which feeds the people directly through fishing or indirectly through rice cultivation is threatened.

The Tonle Sap river and lake system, referred to by Ly Kim Han, the nation's Director of Fisheries, as the "heart and soul of Cambodia", is a 100-mile tributary of the Mekong, which is also a complex and delicate ecosystem.

Excessive logging and environmental degradation are now putting at risk the country's food supplies, which are still recovering from the wasted years of the Khmer Rouge.

In a phenomenon unique to this tragic land, the Tonle Sap river defies gravity, actually flowing uphill for six months each year. As the spring waters melting off the Himalayas, coupled with the regional monsoon-swollen tributaries, cause the Mekong to expand beyond its capacity, the waters are sent gushing backwards up the Tonle Sap, to burst the banks of the lake. Water levels rise by up to 45ft and a third of the country's fertile land is flooded. The floodwaters hold life-giving nutrients for the paddies and a multitude of fish, which provide 90 per cent of the protein in the Cambodian diet.

However, the harmony of the ecosystem is in danger. A barrage of mud and debris is being washed from upstream, interfering with fish migration and the flow of fertile silt, and choking the life out of the river and lake.

Dr Tyson Roberts, who has been studying the Mekong basin for nearly 25 years and is currently the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's consultant at Bangkok University, has become increasingly concerned.

"This Tonle Sap site has probably been the largest inland fishery in the world," he said. "We're now coming and looking at it in a highly disturbed condition and trying to figure out what's going on. The lake levels may be lower at some time this year than has ever happened." Khen, a fisherman, said: "I've been fishing here for ten years, but the last three have not been good. The quantity of fish has gone down remarkably. This is the worst year. The bigger fish have just disappeared."

His boat-builder friend, Pin, complained: "Last year, a friend took 250 tonnes. So far this year [three quarters of the way through the season], he has only taken 20."

As well as domestic land-clearing for agriculture, commercial logging and gem mining around Pailin, along the Thai-Cambodian border, have contributed to the disaster — and funded the Khmer Rouge. Concessions sold to Thai "businessmen" earn the Khmer Rouge more than £78 million a year. Cambodia's largely impoverished population of 9.2 million, of whom 90 per cent are rural dwellers, are further threatened by nine million land mines left over from the country's conflicts. The capital's water festival is a time to give thanks and hope as they celebrate the coming together of the spirits of land, sky and water.

But the sub-text to the celebrations is bleak. Dr Roberts said: "The negative impacts may eventually cause the Tonle Sap lake to split into two sections. If dam projects in China, such as the 1,250-megawatt Manwan dam in Yunnan Province, and proposed projects in Laos are allowed to continue, it is neighbouring Cambodia that will suffer again."

Israelis meet to defuse storm over King David's good name

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

URGENT talks will be held in Israel after the Sabbath ends tonight in an attempt to resolve a bizarre political crisis over King David.

The storm that erupted over allegations that Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, slandered the biblical King in a Knesset debate that has prompted three motions of no-confidence against the Labour Government. Although the Government is expected to scrape home with support from five Arab and communist deputies, Labour Party officials are anxious that the affair could have serious effects on the next general election in 1996 if it succeeds in uniting the whole religious community against the party's candidate for prime minister.

Eli Dayan, chairman of the Labour coalition which has only 61 members in the 120-seat Knesset, said: "I think he was wrong. I have called on Mr Peres to publicly apologise, but so far he has refused. This is a national issue of great importance to a great many religious Jews, not only those regarded by some as extremists." Mr Dayan, the Israeli equivalent of Britain's Chief Whip, said that he had called on the three religious parties which have tabled the motions to be voted on Monday to withdraw them.

The religious community has poured scorn on a public statement by Mr Peres that he did not intend to denigrate the King David by remarks about his relationship with Bathsheba. Religious deputies have been infuriated by the Foreign Minister's implied criticism of David's action in sending his lover's husband, Uriah, to the battlefront with orders that he be placed in a position where he was sure to be killed.

The actual words used by Mr Peres that have caused such a national uproar were: "Not everything that King David did, on the ground, on the rooftops, is acceptable to a Jew or is something I like."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chinese coach has cancer

Hong Kong: Ma Junren, coach of China's record-breaking women runners, has throat cancer, he was quoted yesterday as saying.

The coach, famed for his rigorous methods and health potions made from turtle blood, told a newspaper here that doctors had ordered him to stop work. He also said his father was critically ill. *(AP)*

30,000-year sentence urged

Oklahoma City: A jury recommended a 30,000-year prison sentence for a child rapist, but he could be eligible for parole in as little as 15 years.

Charles Robinson was convicted on six rape charges for an assault on a girl aged three. The sentence is to be considered by a district judge. *(AP)*

Trial wait

Addis Ababa: After a three-day reading of the charges, the genocide trial of former President Mengistu of Ethiopia, who is exiled in Zimbabwe, and 46 of his officials was adjourned until March for defence preparations. *(AFP)*

War games

Delhi: India and China are to hold military exercises next summer along the border in the region of Ladakh, their first joint manoeuvres since the 1962 war. *(Reuter)*

Tribe loses

Jerusalem: The Israeli Supreme Court has rejected an appeal to consider the Ibo tribe of Nigeria as Jews, which would have opened the door for the two-million community to emigrate. *(AFP)*

Fujimori suit

Lima: Susana Higuchi, Peru's former First Lady, said she planned to begin divorce proceedings and ask the Vatican to annul her 20-year marriage to President Fujimori. *(Reuter)*

Condom 'plot'

Harare: Ruth Chinamano, a woman MP, told Zimbabwe's parliament that campaigns for condoms and other contraceptives were a plot by the developed nations to wipe out Africans. *(Reuter)*

Codswallop

Amsterdam: A fisherman who celebrated when told his false teeth lost at sea had been found in a cod, caught by an excursion organiser, was hoaxed — they belonged to a prankster's wife. *(AP)*

Peking jails nine dissidents for up to 20 years

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A COURT in Peking yesterday handed down the stiffest sentences on political dissidents since the Tiananmen Square demonstrators were jailed.

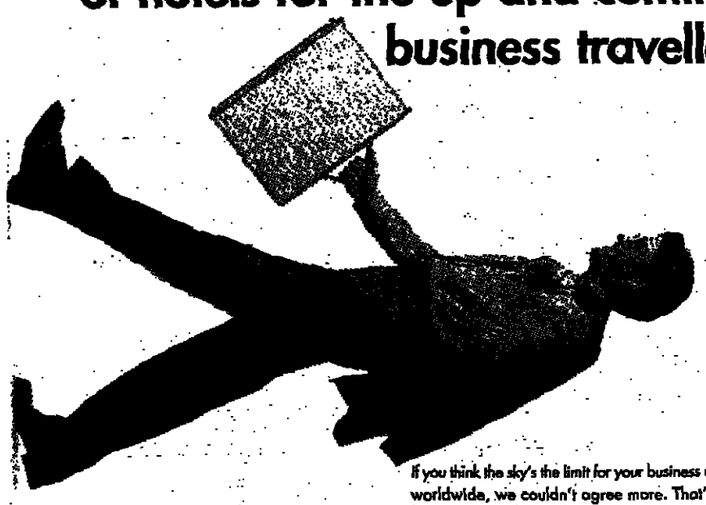
Nine activists were imprisoned for up to 20 years for "spreading counter-revolutionary propaganda". They were among the so-called Peking 15, who were intending to distribute leaflets marking the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown.

In the event, all were arrested in 1992 before the anniversary. Charges against the remaining six activists were dropped. The US-based Human Rights Watch/Asia said that state-run law firms had been instructed not to defend the prisoners. Moreover, in some cases, the activists were illegally jailed until their sentencing. Chinese pre-trial detention is limited to 5½ months under Chinese law.

A Peking University lecturer, Hu Shigen, 39, received the heaviest sentence of 20 years. He founded the Liberal Democratic Party. "These sentences are appalling, horrific," said Robin Munro, the Hong Kong representative of Human Rights Watch/Asia.

"It gives the lie to the Western claim that economic reforms in China will widen human rights. The reverse is true," he said.

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TEXAS HOMECARE

Unless the Prime Minister can restore unity in the Conservative Party, he cannot hope to win back the voters who fled at Dudley

Major slain by his own dagger

William Rees-Mogg

The Conservative Party, like the First Murderer in Macbeth, has become "weary with disasters". There is some risk it will come to share his recklessness: "I would set my life on any chance, to mend it or be rid on't." When people have been too long exposed to the storm, they can come to regard each new disaster as laughable, as yet another sign of the malice of fortune. The Conservative Party is close to this giggling stage. "Dudley West — 20,000 — the biggest swing to Labour since 1935? Bring me another whisky and soda."

The scale of the Dudley West defeat is indeed awe-inspiring. It is the Niagara of by-elections. On the Dudley swing, in theory, no Conservative seat would be held at a general election. The Canadian Progressive Conservatives did, in fact, manage to lose all but two seats at their last general election — I suspect that Huntingdon and Billericay would still prove winnable and the Conservative Party would be left with John Major and Teresa Gorman in the Commons. But who would then be the leader?

The pressure of disastrous by-elections and terrible opinion polls has already weakened and divided the party. The decision to stage an artificial confrontation on European finance and throw out the rebels was almost suicidal. Now the Cabinet appears to be divided both on the RAF transport plane and on a European referendum. When parties lose their self-confidence they lose their cohesion, and Cabinets lose their common sense.

Boredom and resentment have eaten away Conservative support. The Labour Party has become much more electable. Tony Blair is the least frightening leader the Labour Party has ever had; people think he is a pleasant and intelligent man; he talks sense; he belongs to the postwar world. There is no chance of terrifying the electorate with a Blair bogey, in the way voters could be frightened by Michael Foot or even Neil Kinnock. Mr Blair is also winning a large part of the Liberal vote: his party has excellent prospects of power, and offers the left-of-centre government Liberals always hoped for.

Some Conservatives think that Dudley West is merely a very acute symptom of the mid-term disease, and that people will vote differently in a general election and will feel better as the economic recovery develops. The more realistic view is that this may well be a long-term rejection of the Conservatives, such as happened in 1905, 1945 and 1964, all of them coming after long periods of Conservative government. The people probably mean what their votes say.

There is more to it than the appeal of Mr Blair or discontent with the Tories. Wherever one looks in the world, one sees weak governments or those which have been repudiated or come close to it. In the United States, where political rhythms have been close to ours for most of the last 50 years, the Democrats in 1992 captured the White House for the first time in 12 years; within two years they had lost the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years.

The modern economy of the world has its winners but it also has many losers; the old security of good pay for routine management or production-line jobs has gone for ever. The redundant middle manager, in his 40s, may have 20 years of working life ahead, but with no prospect of ever again being paid the salary earned in his thirties. Disappointed expectations can easily turn into political resentments, in the United States, in Canada, but also in Britain, Germany, France or Italy. Anxiety levels are very high, and economic change has to be very rapid.

The Conservative Party is also suffering from the general weakening of our national institutions. The days when Tory dinners ended with a toast in vintage port to "Church and King" may be long gone, but the idea of Britain as a loyal institutional society still has its attractions to many Conservative voters.

Both the monarchy and the Church of England are much weaker than they were when the Conservatives came to power. Parliament, the sovereign democratic institution, has handed over many powers to Brussels, and has lost much of its self-confidence. In these difficult circumstances what should the Prime Minister be attempting to achieve? He can fairly use the Dudley West by-election result to warn Conservatives, past and present, of the threat of a large Labour majority. Many voters who would comfortably accept Mr Blair with an overall majority of 20 would not feel so safe if Labour had a majority of 200.

Yet Mr Major's big task is reconciliation in his own party. It is one of his skills, but he sometimes gets too angry to use it. Unless the Conservative Party can retain its unity, it cannot win back the lost voters. Reconciliation would require the immediate restoration — before Christmas — of the whip to the rebels, which would restore the Tory majority in the Commons. That split could and should have been avoided, and must not be allowed to degenerate into a running feud in 1995.

On Europe, reconciliation requires the promise of a referendum, at least on major constitutional change or the single currency. If that commitment had been made at the time of the party conference, the whole autumn would have been transformed for the better. Reconciliation also means bringing the Cabinet closer to the majority opinion of the party and the backbenchers.

Such a reconciliation is not impossible, but Mr Major would have to recognise that the Maastricht treaty poisoned many people's confidence in the future of the European Union. Now that Jacques Delors has decided there is no prospect of winning a parliamentary majority in France for the federalist policies he would have wanted to pursue as President, there is hope for a satisfactory intergovernmental conference in 1996. Unless the British Government can unite its own supporters, the Prime Minister will have little bargaining power in the conference.

After reconciliation comes renewal. Any political party is held together and carried forward by the strength of its ideas, which form a sort of magnetic bottle for the plasma of political energy. Britain may now be turning to the centre-left, but the spirit of the age is still moving towards personal responsibility, if only because of the forces of world competition.

The central theme for the British Conservatives should be to adapt to the technology and market opportunities of the 1990s. Everything depends on that, and the necessary policies are more natural to the Tories than to Labour. The strongest symbol of this approach to renewal is the Hong Kong experience. An open, personally responsible, lightly-regulated, low-expenditure, low tax economy, with maximum economic freedom, has the best chance of effective competition in the modern age.

Britain should see herself as an emerging market. Mr Blair needs to be challenged with proposals for real tax cuts, aimed at improving efficiency and incentives. These are also the right ideas for Europe as a whole — a high-cost, high-tax, over-regulated, over-dependent Europe would soon drift down to Third World status.

Reconciliation and renewal would give the Conservatives at least some chance of winning the next election. A united party of modern Conservative ideas might still be beaten, but it would certainly elect Members of Parliament beyond the boundaries of Huntingdon and Billericay.

Laws that backfire

The best-intended legislation can go wrong, says **James Bartholomew**

Allow me to tell you a story about a baby and an aeroplane disaster. In 1989, a DC10 crashed in Sioux City, killing 111 people including a baby. This baby, called Evan Tsao, like others under the age of two, was being carried. Tragically, Evan might not have died if he had been securely fastened in a baby seat.

In the outcry that followed, politicians, parents and consumer groups all demanded legislation to make baby seats compulsory. Everyone agreed, including air crews and the airlines themselves.

Legislation was planned and would, by now, be in force but for an unexpected development. A few academics examined the unintended consequences of such legislation. Many couples travelling with babies are young and short of money. If these couples were obliged to pay for an extra seat for their baby, many would forsake air travel altogether and go by car.

But cars are many times more dangerous than aircraft. Far more people would be killed in the resulting car crashes than would be saved from death in air disasters. The estimate was that between five and ten extra people would be killed on the road every year. This would be carnage compared with the number of lives saved — a single person and not every year, but every five to ten years.

In sum: legislation designed to save people would, in fact, have killed them. It would have had precisely the reverse effect of that intended.

This tale is useful because it demonstrates the potential of government actions to have a reverse effect. Although we are accustomed to the idea that laws can fail to meet their objectives, most people still assume that legislation will go some way, however modest, towards achieving what it sets out to do.

Once it is recognised that this need not be so — that laws can wholly backfire — it becomes easier to get people to consider which existing laws might be suffering from this fatal defect.

Take employment training. This is widely regarded as worthy and worthwhile as loving motherhood. But several pieces of American research suggest that government training not only fails. It is counter-productive.

The large-scale "New Chance" study published in June showed that unmarried teenagers who received training held down jobs for only nine weeks on average compared with 11 weeks for those who had zero training. Another study quoted in *The New York Times* last year showed that those who enrolled in federal job training earned 8 per cent less than those who went without.

The explanation offered for this is that the trained people developed exaggerated expectations and refused to accept low-skill jobs.

> 'People are not pawns who can be moved just as governments want'

What of the special protection for women in work? Women in Britain are currently favoured by laws which oblige employers to let them take six months off to have a baby and return afterwards to the same job. It is reasonable to think that putative employers must react negatively. Certainly some women believe that employers discreetly and unprovably avoid taking on women who look likely to have a child in the next year or two. So, again, women could be damaged by legislation intended to help them.

The danger of a reverse effect does not apply only to governments. In the charity business it is well recognised that free food can cause more problems than it solves. It can annihilate the profits of local farmers, who instead of being encouraged to plant more are induced to plant less.

It can also be maintained, and I certainly would argue, that overmighty trade unions — such as in the coalmines and British Leyland in former days — have destroyed the jobs they were ostensibly meant to protect.

The fundamental truth is that actions have reactions. People are not pawns who can be moved just as governments or other agencies want. Those who are affected twist and turn in pursuit of their private aims and ambitions. You cannot say "alleviate this suffering" and see it alleviated. Governments are not gods. But the effects of their actions can be devilish.

Lasdun's masterpiece is under threat because concrete is out of fashion, says **Mark Girouard**

Don't ruin the National

I remember how, in the 1950s, I would wrinkle my nose with disgust at the sight of anything Art Deco — from a cinema to a wireless set. The buildings were not protected by listing, and many were destroyed or mutilated in the 1950s and 1960s, including, for instance, the colourful and inventive interiors devised by Oliver Bernard for the hotels and corner-houses of J. Lyons and Co. Only the flowing crystalline opulence of the entry to the Strand Palace Hotel, which used to amaze passers-by, was rescued by some enlightened curator at the V & A from the scrap heap to which the company planned to assign it.

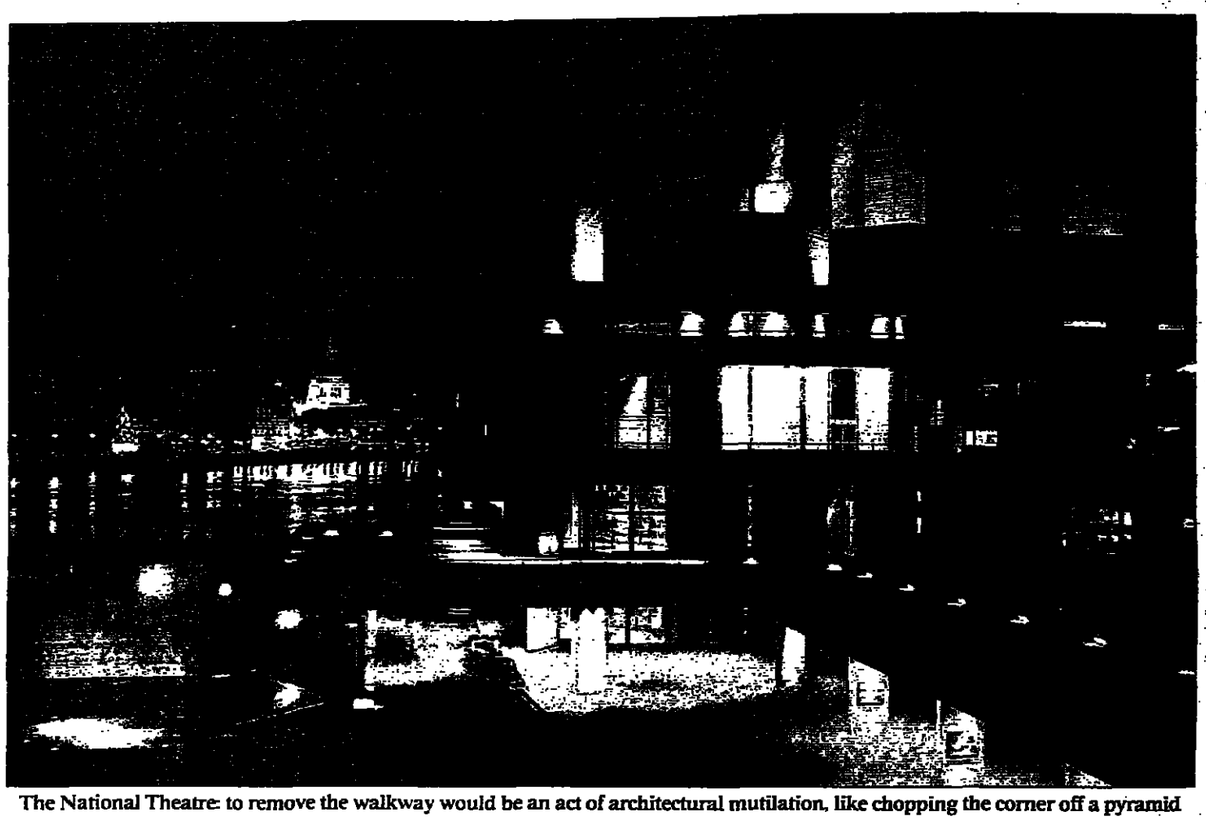
The swing of the pendulum remorselessly sends styles, materials and colours in and out of fashion. Mid-Georgians found the red brick which their fathers fancied vulgar. Victorians anathematised what they called the "sham" of stucco or the "monotony" of brick Georgian terraces, and these were demolished or remodelled by the score until their merits began to be rediscovered in the 1920s, by when Victorian architecture was becoming "hideous".

Cream was the fashionable colour, and stucco buildings were painted cream, something which would have horrified Nash. The Crown Commissioners continue to paint their Nash terraces cream, but freehold owners of late-Georgian, or Victorian, stucco buildings go in for pretty colours, and the sober brown or grey uniform which the Victorians favoured only occasionally survives, and is thought to look "dismal".

The British system of listing buildings is the most comprehensive in the world and, constricting though it can be, it is thanks to it that British towns, in particular, have kept what quality they have in the face of the steady grinding of commercial interests. But until the last few years buildings under 50 years old were not listed (or only in exceptional circumstances), which means that they were at risk in their most vulnerable period — when they were almost inevitably out of fashion.

A brave attempt has accordingly been made to look through the vagaries of fashion to architectural quality, and to list a comparatively small number of postwar buildings. A 30-year-old limit is still general, but recent buildings can be listed if they are under threat.

The exercise can run into difficulties. School buildings, for instance, were the subject of great inventiveness and idealism in the 1950s, and were among the most interesting products of the decade, but school architects were, in the main, anti-architecture in the sense that they set out to design flexible short-life buildings rather than long-life monuments. Protecting such buildings seemed a denial of their nature, but even so a handful have been listed on the reasonable grounds that people will study 1950s schools, and want to experience what they looked like.



The National Theatre: to remove the walkway would be an act of architectural mutilation, like chopping the corner off a pyramid

The National Theatre is in a different category: a major public building designed as a conscious work of art, an example of what Lutyens called the "high game" of architecture, as carefully composed as a symphony. It is also vulnerable, because it is only beginning to climb out of the trough of fashion. What red brick was to the mid-Georgians, concrete is today: we don't like it and can't believe that anyone will ever like it; and the National Threatre is a hymn to concrete. We like buildings to be pretty — and the National Theatre is not pretty — and to be gaily coloured — and the National Theatre is, or seems, drab.

But it is powerful and dramatic: it has a sense of theatre as well as being a theatre. It exploits the nature of reinforced concrete and its cantilever potential to build up a consistent language of what Denys Lasdun calls "strata": concrete trays with boldly coffered undersides piled up in parallel layers to form two pyramids, large and small, clustered round the proscenium towers of the Olivier and Lyttelton auditoriums.

By the nature of cantilevering, the external walling between the trays is non-structural, and can be glass, and moved in and out to form enclosed spaces or balconies, terraces and walkways looking towards St Paul's, Somerset House, Waterloo Bridge and the river. The basic concept is simple, but within the concept the spaces, inside and out, are manipulated with variety and skill so that moving in and out of the building is full of enjoyable surprises.

Listing a building is not intended to freeze it, however. The theatre suffers from practical disadvantages, and has changing needs. A difficult, but by no means impossible, game has to be played — of dealing with practicalities without compromising the quality of the architecture.

But a head-on collision has recently resulted between the theatre authorities and their consultants, Stanton Williams, who claim that this is just what has been done, and others, including Denys Lasdun himself, who find some of the proposals architecturally disastrous and practically unnecessary.

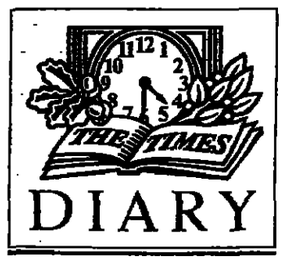
Most controversial is the raised walkway which forms the bottom stratum on the side of Waterloo Bridge, and links the theatre to the bridge and the raised walkways of the South Bank which, incidentally, are returned and enlarged in Richard Rogers's proposals.

The theatre authorities say that the walkway takes light from the foyer and is unnecessary; Lasdun and others dispute this, and say that it is architecturally an essential part of the building. I am one of the "others", for it seems to me that removing the walkway is an act of architectural mutilation like chopping the corner off a pyramid. Also in dispute is the proposal to glaze in the covered *porte-cochère* by which the theatre is entered. The theatre authorities see this as a useful and aesthetically harmless way of increasing the foyer space, while Lasdun and others see it as a destruction of his carefully worked-out balance between inside and outside.

The accepted way of dealing with this kind of collision, when it involves a building of the importance of the National Theatre, is a public inquiry, at which the arguments for and against can be examined and weighed at relative leisure. Calling an inquiry is at the discretion of John Gummer, Environment Secretary, and it is to be hoped that his known admiration of the Prince of Wales — who hates the National Theatre — will not deter him.

Public inquiries are expensive, and unpopular with the Government; but as the Theatre moves back into fashion, as it inevitably will, there is a likelihood of an even more expensive process taking place of returning it to its original form — as is currently being proposed at the neighbouring Festival Hall.

Yule survive



TOP MILITARY brains are engaged on their most testing operation of the year: stopping scores of prime plucked turkeys going AWOL before Christmas. Armed guards will accompany convoys from English and German army depots bound for Split harbour, laden with 594 3lb Christmas puddings, 5,800 mince pies, 180 yuletide logs, 922 iced Christmas cakes and enough of Bernard Matthews's best to sustain our boys in Bosnia. Nor are chipolatas, bacon rolls and other essentials of a traditional English Christmas, omitted.

Once in Split, the supplies will be loaded onto *RFA Resource*, a sort of floating hypermarket, before dispatch to units throughout the region, from Gorazde to the Maglaj Salient. Captain Mark Somers, of the Scots Dragoon Guards based at Split, says: "Obviously with food shortages out here, we need very tight security. But we try to make it as much like an English Christmas as possible — and at least it should be a white one." After lunch — where senior officers traditionally serve the NCOs — "we all watch the Queen's Speech, of course, on satellite TV".

Serbs may look askance at their antics as they do not celebrate Christmas for another fortnight, while the Croats will sit down to their traditional fish, black risotto and fritola Christmas dinners.

As for that other essential presence at Christmas, my military mole tells me: "There may be various red-coated, white-bearded gentlemen turning up around the place."

● *Our political leaders are surrendering their ties to be auctioned on Monday in aid of CRISIS. Tony Blair has donated a red number with grey circles. John Major has supplied one of "four different colours with lots of swirls". Not, I trust, a particular favourite.*

Last laugh

AS LABOUR'S votes were piling up in Dudley Town Hall, Michael Heseltine found himself required to address the China-Britain Trade Group dinner in the London Hilton at short notice. In less than his normal sparky mood, Hezza divulged that, on past such occasions, he tended to ring Tory Central Office for help and would be switched through to the "joke" department.

"It's no good ringing up Central Office any more — the joke department has been closed down," he sighed wryly. "I did actually try. Nothing much left to laugh about, they told me."

● *Ex-bad boy Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones has found the ideal reading material between gigs on the Stones' "Voodoo Lounge" US tour: Gibbon's* The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. *"He says he is fascinated by the licence and cruelty of the Roman emperors. It has inspired him so much that he will be using some of the stories in his new songs," insists one of the guitarist's fans.*

Food tidings

FRIENDS of Celia Sandys, biographer of her grandfather Winston Churchill, are in receipt of a most individual card this Christmas. It reproduces a festive sketch penned by young Winston in 1891 to send to his mother in France.

Apart from the delicate penmanship, the work lovingly displays his concern for his stomach, even as a comparative stripling of 17, for it lists his idea of a perfect menu: mutton broth, roast chicken with onions, entremets and cheese. His message: "With Best Wishes for good dinners on New Year's Eve and through the years."

Galling

A REAL chip off the old block, Carlotta Gall, daughter of intrepid newsman Sandy, is holed up in the French House, a hotel in Grozny, Chechenya, covering her first "war" assignment. Carly, a demon with the hockey stick while at St Mary's Convent, Ascot, recently graduated with an MA in international journalism from London's City University and caught the travel bug when tramping around Afghanistan with her father.

Conditions in the French House certainly do not sound exactly appetising. The journalist Simon Sebag Montefiore, who stayed there while covering events last summer, shudders: "It is horribly basic. There is electricity but no heating. However, it's a lot better than the Hotel Kafkaz, Grozny's only other hotel. That doubles as the barracks of the President's bodyguard."

● *A curious turnabout in the Commons. Tory MP Robert Jones switched from sponsoring the Energy Conservation Bill while a backbencher to helping to wreck it when he became a minister. Now Tim Yeo, who opposed the Bill when he was a minister, is to be a co-sponsor.*

P·H·S



Art for food's sake: the young Winston Churchill's creative card

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AFTER DUDLEY

The Tories risk panic: Labour risks complacency

Landslide by-election defeats have become such a commonplace that soon a Tory party chairman will be claiming victory because the swing against his candidate does not break a post-war record. Even John Major admitted yesterday that the drubbing at Dudley West was "a very poor result". Jeremy Hanley, the chairman, warned against "judging the game by the half-time score". He has a point, but since the score today stands at roughly Labour 15, Conservatives 0, his panicking team will have to make a rapid psychological adjustment and rediscover some fancy footwork to have a strong chance of equalising in the second half of this Parliament.

Labour has reason to be delighted with the Dudley West result. It was its biggest swing from the Conservatives since 1935. Usually the Liberal Democrats are the beneficiary of anti-Tory protest votes. This time the Labour candidate won in some style and the third party was squeezed to less than half of its 1992 general election vote. Over-excited psephologists inevitably extrapolated the result to a general election in which the Conservatives won no seats at all.

By-elections, of course, are absolutely no guide to general elections, and not merely because a general election is still some time away. The critical difference is that voters are not being asked to choose between a Conservative and a Labour Government. Time and again in the past two Parliaments, Labour has done well at by-elections, only to find that voters were not prepared to trust it with the governance of the country at the subsequent general election. That may yet be true again. The biggest danger facing Labour is complacency.

Voters still have to make the leap between voting against the Conservatives and voting for Labour. Mr Blair's determination to replace Clause Four of the party's constitution is an attempt to create a positive reason for voting Labour. Some disgruntled activists are already using Labour's huge lead in the polls to argue that the party does not need to embark upon what might be a bruising argument about its aims and values. But if Mr Blair is to turn poll leads and by-election victories into votes at the next general election, he cannot shirk from this task. For him to win, fear of a Labour government has to be turned into enthusiasm.

It would help if the special conference on Clause Four, to be held in April, were to vote overwhelmingly for a modern replacement. Most of the trade unions, who still wield 70 per cent of the vote, will vote for reform. The constituency delegates, however, may not. Labour Party members want to see a change, but the harder-line activists who run the local parties tend to be more resistant. They should be instructed by the party's National Executive Committee to ballot their members before the conference and to vote according to the result.

Beyond Clause Four, Labour still needs to sort out its policies before the next election. As we have argued before, Labour's education policy is still too much in thrall to teachers and local councillors. Its constitutional reforms need detailed thought and persuasive argument if they are not to frighten voters and then mire a Labour government in its first year or two of office. Above all, Labour frontbenchers need to learn Mr Blair's language: to argue for the interests of ordinary consumers, not those of producers. If people vote Labour only with a heavy heart, the Conservatives can still hope.

BRUTON'S BURDEN

It is high time that Fine Gael's voice was heard

The election of Fine Gael's John Bruton as Taoiseach this week ended more than a month of political upheaval in Dublin. Most observers had not expected Albert Reynolds to be succeeded by the man he once called "John Unionist", predicting instead that Fianna Fail's Bertie Ahern would step into the breach. In practice, however, the rift between Mr Reynolds and Labour's Dick Spring seems to have transcended personality. Almost by default, Mr Bruton has finally achieved the prize which he so nearly gained two years ago.

The new coalition is the product of necessity rather than affinity. It has a tiny majority of four. Mr Spring's long-standing differences with Mr Bruton are no secret. The new Taoiseach may find some shared ground with his deputy leader in the political doctrine of European social democracy. But Fine Gael — which represents the old-fashioned rural middle class — has little else in common with its new coalition partner. Class distinctions still count for more in Ireland than the detail of policy, and Labour is very much an urban party. Mr Bruton will have to work even harder than his Fianna Fail predecessor to preserve this nervous alliance.

In its domestic policy, the new coalition will probably not differ too markedly from the last. It will strive to achieve a moderate balance between liberal social reform and fiscal probity. Though Fine Gael is on paper more Thatcherite than Fianna Fail, Mr Bruton is unlikely to pursue dramatic new initiatives — not least because his position in the Dail is so vulnerable. The principal difference between the old régime and the new is that Labour has tightened its grip on the executive and now controls several of the key Cabinet portfolios. Mr Spring has exacted a considerable price for his support. More important by far is the impact which Mr Bruton's election will have upon the peace process. The pan-nationalist pact linking the SDLP and Sinn Fein in the North to the Fianna Fail-Labour coalition in the South has suffered a serious blow. Mr Bruton is far less sympathetic to the nationalist tradition of discreet understandings and deals than his predecessor. With typical arrogance, Sinn Fein made clear yesterday that it was reserving judgment on the new Taoiseach. The republican movement will doubtless seek to exploit this moment of uncertainty.

Mr Bruton, meanwhile, went out of his way yesterday to indicate his support for the peace process. The warm manner in which he greeted Gerry Adams at the Irish government's National Forum for Peace and Reconciliation was a clear signal to nationalists of his intentions. He will not allow his evident distaste for the republican movement and its methods to jeopardise the talks process. Sinn Fein should respond to this gesture with speed and humility.

Equally, Mr Bruton's election may help to reassure the Unionist community that they are not the victims of an international confidence trick. The first major issue facing the new Taoiseach will be the completion of the joint framework document which will be launched early next year by the British and Irish Governments as the basis of new talks. His commitment to amend the Republic's territorial claim to the North is certainly more robust than his predecessor's. The Unionist community has high expectations of the new Taoiseach. After a year of Anglo-Irish diplomacy dominated by nationalist concerns, it is time that the other side was heard.

LIGHTS UP FOR CHRISTMAS

Britain's towns beat the big cities for illumination

Only eight more nights before Christmas are left to see the lights. The illuminations have become as much a regular part of the winter festivities as Santa Claus and turkey. From Japan to Jerusalem, in lands and towns not otherwise conspicuous for their observation of the season, the coloured lights have gone up. In some of the displays the new aluminium Christmas trees are so good that one cannot distinguish them from the real plastic ones.

The original conceit of candles lighting up dark fir trees was brought to Britain by our Hanoverian monarchs two centuries ago. Electricity and mass commerce popularised the display into the high streets. And now, though commerce is moving out from city centres, the Christmas lights have become traditional. Those stuck in jams that make their journey twice as long as usual tonight may wish that the tradition could be removed to run-down suburbs could use the traffic on the periphery of town.

There is a subsidiarity in Christmas lights that moves them gradually out from the centre. This year's illuminations in Oxford Street and Blackpool will be sold on to become next year's sensations in Middlesbrough and Ayr, so creating time warps in populist light. Where are the Ninja Turtles and Snow Whites of yesteryear? Bought at a discount by the local Rotary Club and playing the provinces, to be succeeded at due cost by this year's metropolitan highlights.

Once a year its Christmas lights define a town's sense of community as much as its football club and the local newspaper. By regional patriotism, every town thinks that its lights are more tasteful and less tacky than those next door. And provincial towns put on a better show these days than the West End of London, where the actress switching them on was mugged by a gang of women shortly afterwards.

In America, of course, they take illuminations to their extreme radiance. How many Californians does it take to switch on the Christmas lights? One to pull the switch, and 28 million to share the experience. In New Orleans, Barbara Foundas, who runs the contest for the best-illuminated neighbourhood, told a newly arrived couple who she thought were not pulling their watts: "I'm going to rip your hearts out while you're still alive and tear you apart limb by limb." Jennings Osborne, the eccentric Arkansas millionaire, illuminates his house with four million red bulbs so that aircraft pilots see it from ten miles away, the national electricity grid is disrupted, and the neighbours are suing him because of the nuisance of tourist traffic to see the lights.

Here we have not yet reached such incandescent extravagance of Christmas light. The traffic may creep and the advertisements may vary in discretion. One town's taste lights up another town's tackiness. But the notion of lighting up the darkest days of the year for the community has become a cheerful custom. It is more practical than the Yule log and more useful than the mistletoe. According to their lights the towns of Britain recognise the bright symbolism better than the big city.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Share for all but a cap on lottery?

From Mr George Copeman

Sir, It was Professor F. A. Hayek, in *The Road to Serfdom* (1944) and later in *The Constitution of Liberty*, who drew attention most dramatically to the need for a wide spread of ownership, if democracy is to work properly. Where ownership is too narrowly-concentrated, as in some South American countries, there is no stable base for democracy. Hayek also pointed out that a reasonable spread of ownership helps to protect the liberty of non-owners.

He inspired me to be one of the founders of the Wider Share Ownership Council in 1958. It is now called Proshare. One can now have share plans for the management and employees of business firms which do not dilute the equity of other shareholders at all. The shares for the plan are bought in and they are funded from incentive bonuses which are entirely earned.

All this is fine for people with at least modest abilities and aspirations, but I see no objection to making wealthy people out of those who do not strive to make big money.

If the National Lottery could add 500 millionaires a year to those who strive for success and achieve it, or who inherit its results, that will be useful and in keeping with the spirit of Hayek. However, we do not need multi-millionaires this way. Why not modify the lonery draw, to cap it at £1 million?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE COPEMAN,
Moonraker, Batts Lane,
Marehill, Pulborough, West Sussex.
December 14.

From Mr Ali Mohamed Al-Abdulrazak

Sir, I cannot understand why British people seem so spiteful of anyone winning £17.8 million. Instead of just saying "Well done", they ask for the lottery prize to be limited (letters, December 15), and some ask if it is moral to hand over such a large sum to an individual.

I can assure you, Sir, that if this occurred in Singapore everyone would be happy for the winner, and hope to be the next big winner. People who are not interested in winning big money don't need to buy tickets. It is bad enough that the jackpot can only be rolled over three times in the space of four weeks.

Don't people realise that lotteries are not meant to be fair? The odds are already stacked against the punters. I will stop purchasing any more tickets if the jackpot is to be restricted any further.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. AL-ABDULRAZAK,
76 The Droveway, Hove, East Sussex.
December 15.

From Mr Gershon Ellenbogen

Sir, I support, but go further than, Mr Arkush (letter, December 15) in his criticism of the jackpot prize in the lottery, and will myself take no part in it unless and until the scale of prizes is radically revised.

The limitation to a maximum of (say) £250,000 each would amply satisfy the aspirations and relieve the financial stringencies of the vast majority of the population, and in addition to increasing the chances of a big win would avoid the potentially traumatic effects of a windfall beyond the dreams of avarice.

I am etc,
G. ELLENBOGEN,
37 Queen's Grove, NW8.
December 15.

Recovering missing airmen's bodies

From Mr B. E. Clark

Sir, Stories of difficulties in trying to recover the bodies of airmen missing since the Second World War do not surprise me ("Coroner in clash over body find", December 6).

In 1977, as the officer in charge of the Special Investigation Branch of the RAF Police in Germany, I found that even we — the RAF's *professional* investigative body — encountered MoD obfuscation.

German workmen, clearing a fast-flowing river not far from Hanover, had found part of the fuselage and wing of a Lancaster Mark III. With the remains were also found human bones. We had sufficient of the aircraft and its equipment, including undercarriage, radio, engine and other serially-numbered parts, to be sure of identifying the aircraft, given access to wartime records, but the Air Historical Branch was remarkably coy about releasing any information.

Only when, through German records, we were able to trace the shooting down of the aircraft and identify it with certainty, did the AHB release the required information.

The cockpit part of the aircraft was not found, and the RAF pathologist had insufficient remains to make positive identification, beyond saying that the remains came from three men and fitted the height and age parameters of all five missing crewmen, two bodies having been recovered and buried by the German authorities at the time. The three sets of remains were buried with their two colleagues in a British war cemetery as "unknown airmen".

A detailed report went to the RAF authorities and the AHB, identifying the aircraft and its squadron, along with the target and date of the crash. An old lady living in a house alongside the river remembered with great precision the night and time, as the aircraft had taken the roof off her house before coming to rest partly in the river and partly on the road in front of her house.

She remembered the bodies of two young sergeants with Commonwealth shoulder flashes lying in the road for a couple of days before being taken away for burial. She had felt great pity because they looked so young.

Through her we were able to trace an eminent surgeon in southern Germany, who as a 15-year-old *Luftwaffenhelfer* had helped man the flak battery that shot down the aircraft. He produced a certificate signed by Marshal Goering, which listed every aircraft shot down by the battery. Against each aircraft was recorded the date, time, identification markings and the names and disposal of bodies or surviving crew.

MoD made no attempt to trace next of kin or to publicise the discovery of the aircraft. My lasting memory is one of obdurate secrecy, coupled with a desire not to let anyone know about the discovery because "it might open up painful memories for the families concerned".

It is good that after all these years MoD has been challenged over what is or is not in the best interest of the families whose young sons died in the service of their country.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN CLARK,
Thurlestone, Rossall School,
Fleetwood, Lancashire.
December 6.

From Mr Brian N. D. Smith

Sir, While conceding that the Ministry of Defence and I beg to differ as to our respective powers over the bodies of crashed airmen, I wish to correct any impression given by your report that I am in favour of further exhumations.

In my concluding remarks at the inquest into Sergeant Gilders's death I made it plain that the wishes of the family would not be conclusive in any decision whether to hold an inquest, an essential prerequisite to any exhumation order. I also gave an indication of the stringent conditions likely to attach to such an order.

I do not personally approve of such excavations and prompted the prosecution of Mr Kirby in part to try to ensure that they were carried out rarely and for good reason.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN N. SMITH
(Her Majesty's Coroner for Kent (Ashford & Shepway District)),
Teagues, Flimwell,
Wadhurst, East Sussex.
December 7.

The gospel truth about anoraks

From Mrs Dawn Cunningham

Sir, I see from Monday's paper that you set an end-of-year essay for your two leading (and parallel) columnists, Matthew Parris and William Rees-Mogg: "Discuss the state of Britain today with particular reference to Eastern Europe. Oh, and Matthew, you must be positive, and William, just do one of your 'End-of-civilisation-as-we-know-it-mentioning-Somerset' articles."

So dutifully they set to work. Matthew enthusiastically: "An English friend telephoned me from Moscow. 'I had forgotten', he said, 'what a civil, safe, friendly, decent, orderly little country England is' "; whilst William groaned: "Walking through the centre of London one might feel oneself to be behind the old Iron Curtain, watching the drawn faces, the grey complexions, the cheap clothes."

By way of explanation William instances "men and women dressed in bulging anoraks" and "a clergyman wearing bottle-green corduroy trousers", whilst Matthew applauds an Underground train full of literate commuters.

And which of your thought-provoking columnists are we to believe? In my case the choice was easy: as a provincial bookworm and occasional anorak-wearer, I was immensely relieved to learn that anoraks are still worn in the capital. The absence of corpses in the streets (at least in comparison to Moscow) was also encouraging.

I will therefore embrace the gospel according to Matthew, those tidings of comfort and joy on the lips of every green-corduroyed clergyman, and cast aside William's weary jeremiad, notwithstanding the provenance of the Austrian school of economists which he cites helpfully, forecasting the next recession.

I look forward to more stimulating and diametrically opposed articles side by side next week. What about "Whither/Wither Cricklewood?" by Alan Coren and Simon Jenkins?

Yours sincerely,
DAWN CUNNINGHAM,
5 Trinity Parade, Frome, Somerset.
December 13.

From Mr A. L. Wheatley

Sir, William Rees-Mogg fails to understand how the other half lives. The reason why people are wearing what to him are "cheap clothes" is that, for good or bad, the majority of the population prefer nowadays to wear informal and practical clothes rather than the sort of wear which, presumably, Lord Rees-Mogg wears. Indeed Lord Rees-Mogg might be surprised how much they can cost.

Yours faithfully,
A. L. WHEATLEY,
2 Sherrard Mead, Church Road,
Shaw, Newbury, Berkshire.
December 12.

From Mr John Ette

Sir, William Rees-Mogg makes some very interesting observations of key economic indicators.

There is a well established economic theory that the wearing of anoraks on buses, at home, in bed, indeed all the time, increases in direct proportion to VAT on fuel. At present the monthly statistics are seasonally adjusted to take account of stockpiling of supplies by Euro-sceptics planning to emigrate to Norway.

Yours sincerely,
J. ETTE,
Beavers House, Peppard Lane,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
December 12.

Tory tribulations

From Mr T. M. Harrington

Sir, Mr J. W. Seabright (letter, December 8) commends the rebel Tory MPs for their independence of mind. When, as a result of their irresponsible behaviour, Labour wins at the next general election he may care to reflect that honesty would have been a better feature: the honesty to stand as Independent candidates rather than claim power under the Tory banner. They were not elected because of their personal views. They were elected by voters who wanted a Conservative government.

Yours faithfully,
T. M. HARRINGTON,
6 Wyfold Grange Cottages,
Wyfold, Reading, Berkshire.

From Sir Michael Ogden, QC

Sir, Recent events in the Conservative Party show how important it is that its constituency associations ensure that short-listed candidates possess certain basic qualifications. Obviously, being sensible and level-headed is essential (some associations have failed in this). Loyalty is another requirement.

Of course, in respect of major matters of principle, a vote against one's party can be laudable (the vote on paying a relatively small additional sum to the EU cannot be categorised as a major matter of principle). Otherwise, the right course is to argue something out within the party but, if one loses, shut up and support the party; there can be no MP, including ministers, who is in favour of every aspect of a government's policy and this applies and has always applied to governments of every political persuasion.

As a Conservative, I believe that I am entitled to ask that Conservative associations choose candidates who are prepared to support a Conservative government save in the most exceptional circumstances.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL OGDEN,
2 Crown Office Row, Temple, EC4.

From Mr Ronald Lang

Sir, I guess that the "feel-good factor" is likely to be missing amongst Conservative members of Parliament this morning following the Dudley West election result.

Like so many others they must feel unappreciated and insecure.

Yours faithfully,
R. F. LANG,
Southview,
The Green, Godstone, Surrey.
December 16.

City traffic

From Mrs J. Aldred

Sir, I admired George Stern's article on pollution and parking problems of our cities [Weekend, December 3; letters, December 10, 14].

I have recently returned from a holiday in Rome where for the equivalent of 50 pence one can travel for 1½ hours on buses or the Metro — or both — switching as often as liked within the 1½ hours. Consequently — frequent buses, well supported.

If we adopted this sensible idea our cities, with bus lanes, could be transformed.

Yours sincerely,
J. ALDRED,
Sondeslea,
Longfield Road, Dorking, Surrey.
December 12.

Beginning again

From Mr Colin Le Messurier

Sir, Your report (December 14) of the sale of a draft of Churchill's "end of the beginning" speech leads me to observe that Churchill seems to have borrowed this turn of phrase from F. E. Smith.

In your report (September 12, 1914) of the London Opera House meeting, which opened with an oration by Churchill, you recorded the future Lord Birkenhead declaring that he had "heard a pessimist say, when the news appeared for the moment to be gloomy ... 'This is the beginning of the end.' (Laughter.) He was wrong. It was only the end of the beginning. (Cheers.)"

Yours faithfully,
COLIN LE MESSURIER,
38 Gaviots Way,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Socialism in Europe

From Mr Iain Duncan Smith, MP for Chingford (Conservative)

Sir, I note with interest Jacques Delors's comments that socialism had defeated Mrs Thatcher's brand of economics (report, December 9). For those of us who live in the real world, comments like those do not surprise — they simply amaze. Even such a blinkered socialist and European interventionalist as Jacques Delors must know that there is not one shred of evidence to support his assertion, rather the contrary.

All around Europe, socialist governments following the policies Delors believes in have huge levels of borrowing and vast and rising levels of unemployment. A glance at Spain, which followed the Delors blueprint, is enough to convince one of the absurdity of his words. With around 22.1 per cent unemployment and 35 per cent youth unemployment, it is no wonder that the conservative opposition regularly talk the language of free markets and deregulated work forces.

M. Delors and other socialists should lift their eyes up from their overprotected, overregulated obsessions and look at the rest of the world, which is busy following the lead that Lady Thatcher and the Conservative Government have given over the last 15 years. While he talks in his elitist way about the "grandeur of politics", people across Europe are screaming for jobs.

It is not the case that Lady Thatcher or John Major's reforms have been defeated, but rather socialism in Europe that is being bypassed by a dynamic and global free-trading world.

France should be breathing a sigh of relief that he has decided not to stand for the presidency.

Yours faithfully,
IAIN DUNCAN SMITH,
House of Commons.
December 12.

Cleveland concern

From the Leader of Middlesbrough Borough Council

Sir, Contrary to the claims of Lords Bancroft, Rodgers and Crathorne (letter, December 8), there is ample, unequivocal evidence indicating strong public support for the formation of four unitary district councils in Cleveland.

The most recent MORI poll to which they allude, commissioned by Cleveland County Council, showed that throughout the review area 38 per cent of respondents favoured the change to four unitary districts, against 22 per cent favouring the Teesside/Hartlepool alternative canvassed by the county council and their lordships, and 16 per cent for other options including the status quo. The same poll showed that 44 per cent of respondents felt there was a need to change the current system against 25 per cent who did not.

The result of the MORI poll was consistent with all earlier independent surveys of public opinion and the independent research commissioned by the four districts and the county.

Yours faithfully,
M. CARR, Leader,
Middlesbrough Borough Council,
PO Box 99A, Municipal Buildings,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Gambian tourism

From the Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, David Pudsey writes (letter, December 15) about problems caused to the Gambian tourist industry by Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice.

It is our judgment that the safety of British tourists in The Gambia is at risk from the unstable internal political situation which, in recent months, has seen a coup, a counter-coup and other disturbances. There are no political motives behind our travel advice.

Nor is it intended to nanny — we are seeking to ensure that holidaymakers have fair and objective information about a possible holiday destination on which they can then make their own judgment. We have an obligation to inform British holidaymakers about the risks.

Yours etc,
TONY BALDRY,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street, SW1.

One rate for the job

From Mr Henry Russell

Sir, British Gas would do well to take notice of the relative pay scales (report and letter, December 16) during the building of the Parthenon.

I read (B. M. Fielden, *Conservation of Historic Buildings*) that "the architect and sculptor ... the free men, the freed men and the slaves all received the same wage of one drachma a day, and produced a masterpiece".

Yours faithfully,
HENRY RUSSELL,
Ley Mary Farmhouse,
Windrush, Burford, Oxfordshire.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 16: Mrs Margorie Thomas, (Chairman, National Federation of Women's Institutes' National Markets Sub-Committee) was received by The Queen.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 16: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Department of Trade and Industry, Victoria Street, London SW1.

Mr Stephen Lamport was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 16: The Princess of Wales, Patron, Headway National Head Injuries Association, this afternoon attended a Luncheon at the London Hilton, Park Lane, London W1.

Mrs James Lonsdale was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 16: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Royal Ballet, this afternoon attended the Kenneth MacMillan Choreographic Competition at the Royal Ballet School, White Lodge, Richmond Park.

The Countess Alexandra of Tunis was in attendance.

Royal engagements

Today
The Duke of York will attend the recommissioning of Queen Elizabeth 2 at Southampton Docks at noon.

Tomorrow
The Duke of Kent will attend a carol service given by the Hereford Choral Society, in the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Ethelbert, Hereford, at 6.50.

Luncheon

Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior
Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at the House of Lords to mark the 60th anniversary of Dame Olga Uvarov qualifying as a veterinary surgeon. She was presented with an engraved glass to mark the occasion.

Conversazione

Mr Gerald Geddes, President of The Institute of Marine Engineers, and Mrs Geddes were the hosts at the annual conversazione held yesterday at Grosvenor House.

Antiquaries of London

The Earl of Perth has been admitted as a Fellow *honoris causa* of the Society of Antiquaries of London at a meeting on December 15.

Institute of Marine Engineers

The following have been elected Fellows of the Institute of Marine Engineers and are entitled to use the designatory letters FIMarE:
Mr S Chatzigrigoris, Mr D H Furneaux, Mr T O M Helmer, Mr Ka Fu Cheung, Mr Kin Kwong Li, Mr N J B Morrison, Mr J A Ohuruogu, Cdr T J Russell, RN, Mr K Sen, and Mr G P Voronin.

Latest wills

Anthony Louis Lovel Coke, 6th **Earl of Leicester**, of Plettenberg, South Africa, left estate in England and Wales valued at £66,418 net.

Lieutenant Colonel Lord Douglas Claude Alexander **Gordon**, of Stockbridge, Hampshire, former soldier, innkeeper and antiques dealer, a Page of Honour to King George V, and later a member of the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland *(Royal Company of Archers)* left estate valued at £438,553 net.

Rear Admiral Sir Hugh Pendrel **Janion**, of Batcombe, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, Flag Officer of Royal Yachts and Captain of *HM Yacht Britannia* from 1975 until 1981, left estate valued at £267,853 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax):

Mrs Diana Gillian **Aldington**, of Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire £2,269,206.

Mrs Winifred Maud **Bostock**, of Ashford, Middlesex ...... £2,138,926.

Weekend birthdays

Today
Mr Peter Blackburn, chairman, Nestlé UK, 54; Dame Mary Cartwright, former Mistress, Girton College, Cambridge, 94; Professor Mark Casson, economist, 49; Mr Christopher Cazenove, actor, 49; Viscount Daventry, 73; Lord de Villiers, 83; Lord Glenamara, CH, 82; Mr Bernard Hill, actor, 50; Miss Gwendolen Kirby, former matron, Great Ormond St Hospital for Sick Children, 83; the Hon Dominic Lawson, Editor, *The Spectator*, 38; Lord McFadzean, KT, 91; Mr Tom Mayer, electronic engineer, 66; Mr Kerry Packer, chairman, Australian publishing and broadcasting companies, 57; Sir Leonard Peach, chairman, Police Complaints Authority, 62; Mr Robert Robinson, broadcaster, 67; Mr D.A.G. Smith, Headmaster, Bradford Grammar School, 60; Mr Tommy Steele, actor and singer, 58; Professor W.A.C. Stewart, former Vice-Chancellor, Keele University, 79; Baroness Strange, 66; Mr Cecil Walker, MP, 70.

Tomorrow
Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, 71; Miss Frances Crook, director, Howard League for Penal Reform, 42; Mr David Crossland, chairman, *Airtours*, 48; Lieutenant-Commander I.E. Fraser, VC, 74; Mr Christopher Fry, dramatist, 87; Pamela Lady Harlech, 60; Professor M.J. Harrison, Vice-Chancellor and Director, Wolverhampton University, 53; Miss Rosemary Leach, actress, 59; Mr Geoffrey Lofthouse, MP, 69; Lord Merlyn-Rees, 74; Mr J.C.S. Mott, civil engineer, 68; Mr Albert Pacey, director general, National Criminal Intelligence Service, 56; Miss Annette Page, ballerina, 62; Dr Joyce Reynolds, Roman historian, 76; *Mr Keith Richard, Rolling Stones' guitarist*, 51; Lord Robens of Woldingham, 84; Miss Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, tennis player, 23; the Earl of Shrewsbury, 42; Mr Steven Spielberg, film maker, 47; Mr Joe Wade, trade unionist, 75; the Right Rev R.K. Williamson, Bishop of Southwark, 62; Mr W.H. Yates, senior partner, Knight Frank and Rutley, 59.

Appointment

Sir John Weston to be UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations at New York and UK Representative on the Security Council in succession to Sir David Hannay who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service. Sir John will hold the personal rank of Ambassador.

MICHAEL POWELL



Richard John, the newly appointed director of the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, at the institute's headquarters in Gloucester Gate, Regent's Park, London. Mr John, 27, is an historian and Fellow of Merton College, Oxford

Greek square named after archaeologist

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A GREEK square is to be named after the British prehistoric archaeologist Eric Higgs, who died in 1976. The dedication, in Ioannina, capital of the *mountainous* northwestern province of Epirus, commemorates Higgs's pioneering work in documenting the Palaeolithic occupation of the region in the 1960s, when little was known about the period anywhere in the Balkans or Aegean.

Higgs came late to archaeology, after a career in industry and then hill farming in Wales. In his forties he developed an interest in archaeology, and especially in the origins of agriculture. A diploma course at Cambridge led to a staff position there under Professor (now Sir) Grahame Clark, and Higgs began a series of expeditions to the Mediterranean borderlands in search of the Old Stone Age.

By the time he started his surveys in Epirus in 1962, the physical hardships he imposed were as notorious as the charm with which he kept his volunteers working on a sparse diet in the heat.

The two caves of Asprochaliko and Kastritsa, with occupations spanning the last 30,000 years of the Ice Age, and the surface sites on the "red beds" of Kokkinopilos, gave Greece a prehistory six times longer than it had previously possessed. While Higgs died before most of the work could be published in more than preliminary form, his reputation will now live in the streets of Ioannina.

The Ioannina municipality said that a square in the old part of the town, dominated by the great fortress of Ali Pasha, would be the most appropriate locale, and "Plateia Eric Higgs" will be dedicated soon. Mrs Helen Higgs said that her husband had enjoyed working in Epirus because, as a former sheep farmer, he had felt in tune with the rhythms of rural life there.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Stephen Ferns, Chaplain, Van Mildert and Trevelyan Colleges, University of Durham: to be Priest-in-charge, Norton St Mary (Durham).

The Rev John Good, Rector, Exminster and Kenn, and Rural Dean of Kenn: to be Rector, Axminster Team Ministry (Exeter).

The Ven Kenneth Good, Archdeacon of Richmond (Ripon): to be *also* Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Ministry and Training.

The Rev Charles Gorton, Curate, St Cuthbert, Miles Platting and The Apostles: to be Priest-in-charge, St George the Martyr, Abbey Hey (Manchester).

The Rev Alison Harrison, Officiating Minister, within the plurality of Cockfield and Lynesack: to be Priest-in-charge, St Ebba, Ebchester (w Christ Church, Low Westwood) (Durham).

The Rev Keith Harrison, Vicar, Hey, and Area Dean of Saddleworth (Manchester): to be Chaplain of St Paul's, Athens w St Peter's, Kifissia, Greece (Europe).

The Rev Brian Hartley, Priest-in-charge, St Stephen and All Martyrs, Lowermoor, *Oldham*: now Team Vicar, East Farnworth and Kearsley Team Ministry (Manchester).

The Rev Erika Howard, Curate (NSM), Shoreham Old and Shoreham New: now Curate, Kingston Buci (Chichester).

Forthcoming marriages

Major P.R. Beagle and Miss R.L. Head
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Beagle, of London, and Roberta, only daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Michael Head, of Winchester.

Mr D.L. Carstensen and Mrs C.A. Butler
The engagement is announced between David Lars, son of Mr and Mrs Kaj Carstensen, of Nantwich, Cheshire, and Christine Ann, daughter of Mrs June Beaman, of Newport, Shropshire.

Mr J.V. Crafer and Miss S.A. Ashburton-Dunning
The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs George Crafer, of Farnhill, near Skipton, West Yorkshire, and Suzanne Arlene, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rowan Ashburton-Dunning, of Marcham, Oxfordshire.

Mr A.J. Frew and Miss C.M.F. Oliver
The engagement is announced between Andrew James, son of Mr and Mrs W.S. Frew, of Dundonald, Ayrshire, and Cicely Mary Fraser, elder daughter of Group Captain and Mrs J.O.W. Oliver, of Hayling Island, Hampshire.

Mr A.S. Jones and Miss I. Caboti Figueras
The engagement is announced between Adam, younger son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Jones, of Greens Norton, Northamptonshire, and Imma, younger daughter of Señor and Señora Caboti, of Llavaneres, Barcelona.

Mr T.C. Kerr-Dineen and Miss V.E. Rice
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of the late Canon F.G. Kerr-Dineen and of Mrs Kerr-Dineen, of Cocking, West Sussex, and Valerie, daughter of the late Mr R.J. Rice and of Mrs Rice, of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

***Mr P.H. Rosen* and Miss A.S. Bacon**
The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of the late Calman Rosen and of Mrs Lorna Rosen, of Hull, Yorkshire, and Annette, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Anthony P.C. Bacon, of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Mr S.J. Rundell *and Miss B.A. Jenkins*
The engagement is announced between Simon John, son of Mrs Margaret Rundell and the late Canon Geoffrey Rundell, of Harbury, Warwickshire, and Barbara Ann, daughter of Canon and Mrs Eric Jenkins, of Liverpool.

Mr D.R. Price and Miss C. Notcutt
The engagement is announced between David Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Price, of Newport, Shropshire, and Caroline Jane, daughter of Mr Charles Notcutt, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, and Mrs Angela Fleming-Brown, of Harkstead, Suffolk.

Mr P.Le M. Sinclair and Miss C.P.A. Belk
The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of Sir Ian and Lady Sinclair, of *Chithurst, West Sussex*, and Catherine, only daughter of the late Dr Trevor Belk and of Mrs Christine Belk, of Whitchurch-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Mr D. Tatton-Brown and Miss K.E. Rowlands
The engagement is announced between Duncan, only son of Commander and Mrs H.E. Tatton-Brown, of West Coker, Somerset, and Kate, younger daughter of Mrs Gill Rowlands, of Heswall, Wirral, and of the late Mr David Rowlands.

Marriages

Mr H.G. Dennler and Miss A.C. Ferrand
A service of blessing was held on Thursday, December 15, at St Simon Zelotes, Milner Street, London, SW3, after the marriage of Mr Guy Dennler to Miss Arabella Ferrand. The Hon Charles Harbord-Hamond was best man.

Mr M.B. Garton-Sprenger and Miss C.D. Jeans
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 10, 1994, at the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Inkpen, Berkshire, of Mr Michael B. Garton-Sprenger, only son of Mr and Mrs Ben Garton-Sprenger, of Hartford, Cheshire, to Miss Clare D. Jeans, eldest daughter of the late Rev R. Jeans and of Mrs Jeans, of Donhead, Wiltshire. The Rev C.C.S. Neill officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr Richard A. Jeans, was attended by Olivia and Portia Hibbert. Mr John Symes was best man.

A reception was held at Morewood House and the honeymoon is being spent in Australia.

Election

Middle Temple
Mr Justice Waterhouse has been elected Treasurer for 1995 and Mr M.D. Sherrard Deputy Treasurer.

Weekend anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: Prince Rupert, royalist commander in the Civil War, Prague, 1619; Domenico Cimarosa, composer, Naples, 1749; Sir Humphry Davy, inventor of the miners' safety lamp, Penzance, 1778; John Greenleaf Whittier, poet, Haverhill, Massachusetts, 1807; Jules de Goncourt, diarist, Paris, 1830; Ford Madox Ford, novelist and critic, Merton, Surrey, 1873; W.L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada 1921-26, 1926-30 and 1935-48, Berlin, Ontario, 1874.

DEATHS: Simon Bolivar, "Liberator" of South America, Santa Marta, Colombia, 1830; William Thomson, 1st Baron Kelvin, physicist, Largs, Strathclyde, 1907; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, physician and advocate of women's rights to practise medicine, Aldeburgh, 1917; Sir Bernard Spilsbury, pathologist, London, 1947; Dorothy L. Sayers, detective novelist, essayist and translator, Witham, Essex, 1957; Harold Holt, Prime Minister of Australia 1966-67, drowned off Portsea, Victoria, 1967.

The first powered flight was achieved by the Wright brothers in the *Kitty Hawk*, at Kill Devil Hill, North Carolina, 1903.

The battle of the River Plate: the *Graf Spee* was scuttled off Montevideo, 1939.

The closure of the Suez Canal resulted in petrol rationing, 1956.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Charles Wesley, preacher and hymn writer, Epworth, Lincolnshire, 1707; Joseph Grimaldi, clown, London, 1779; Abraham Viktor Rydberg, philosopher and poet, Jönköping, Sweden, 1828; Edward MacDowell, composer, New York, 1861; Hector Hugo Munro ("Saki"), writer, Akyab, Burma, 1870; Sir Joseph John Thomson, physicist, Nobel laureate 1906, Manchester, 1856; Francis Thompson, poet, Preston, 1859; Paul Klee, painter, Berne, 1879; Betty Grable, actress, St Louis, Missouri, 1916; Prince William of Gloucester, Barnet, Hertfordshire, 1941.

DEATHS: Antonio Stradivari, violin maker, Cremona, Italy, 1737; Alexander Adam, educator, Edinburgh, 1809; Thomas Dunham Whitaker, topographer, Blackburn, 1821; Jean Baptiste de Lamarck, naturalist, Paris, 1829; Samuel Rogers, poet, London, 1855; Sir Richard Owen, biologist, Newtown, Powys, 1858; Sir John Alcock, aviator, killed in an air crash, Cottévvard, France, 1919; Robert Tyre (Bobby) Jones, golfer, Atlanta, Georgia, 1971.

America officially abolished slavery with the ratification of the 13th Amendment, 1865.

"Piltdown Man" was discovered by Charles Dawson, Sussex, 1912.

Church services tomorrow

Fourth Sunday in Advent

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Coll Reg (Howells), Ave Maria (Gorczycki); 2 Shoppers Service; 4 Choral E, Responses (Sanders), Ave maris stella (Monteverdi), Dr K Higgs.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, The Gloucester Mass (Shephard), A Virgin's Cradle Hymn (Rubbra); 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Byrd), Stanford in G, Rorate caeli (Byrd), Canon P Johnson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Schubert in G, People look east, Rev D Marriott; 3.15 E, Responses (Smith), Tone II solemn and Darke in F; 6.30 Compline, Rev R Symon.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, A virgin unspotted, Jackson in G, Angelus ad virginem (Carter), Toccata in D minor (Reger), Archdeacon D Turnbull.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rev J Jones; 11.15 S Euch, Missa simplicitas, Ave Maria (Parsons); 6 Choral E, O Radix Jesse, Responses (Tomkins), Dixit Maria (Hasler), Canon B Thompson.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Choral M, Sumsion in B flat (Herbert), Canon M Rees; 11.30 Choral Euch, Rejoice in the Lord, Jackson in G; 3.30, 6.30 Carol Service.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Tomkins), Jackson in G, Hail Queen of Heaven (Burgon), Rt Rev E Knapp-Fisher; 11 S Euch, Schubert in G, There is no rose (Joubert), Rev Canon Douglas Rhymes; 5 E; 6 Cathedral Carol Service.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), The Angel Gabriel (Basque Noel), Gabriel's message does away (Hone), Mrs M Sedgwick; 5.20 E, Gabriel's message (Hone), Responses (Rose), Hymn to the virgin (Britten).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicite in A (Harris), There is no rose (Joubert), Rev M Parker; 11.15 HC, Missa Christi (Leighton), Tantum ergo sacramentum (Duruflé), Canon R Coppin; 3.30 E, O Radix Jesse, Murrill in E, Rejoice in the Lord alway; 4.30 Christmas Tree Lighting and Crib blessing.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa sine nomine (Taverner), Salve virgo (Frye); 3.45 E, Preces (Rutter), O Radix Jesse, *Howells in E*.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in E, The Lamb (Tavener), Canon J Clarke; 4 Carol Service.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa de Angelis and Darke in F, Canon J Nurser; 11.15 M, Benedicite in D minor (Marshall), Benedictus in B flat (Stanford), The angel Gabriel (Basque Carol); 3.45 E.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Walton), Advent prose (Lloyd), O Living bread (Whitlock), The Chancellor; 3.30 E, Responses (Leighton), Fauxbourdon Service (Wills), A hymn to the Virgin (Britten).

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 12.15 H Euch, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo; 9 Euch, Rev J Court; 11 S Euch, Kyrie (Palestrina), Stanford in C & F, Rejoice in the Lord alway; 3.30 Choral E, Stanford in A, Laetentur coeli et exultet terra (Byrd); 6.30 Euch, (radio broadcast).

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Leighton in D, Archdeacon of Rochdale; 6.30 E, Noble in B minor, The Dean.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 8, Canon P Strange; 9.30, Oldroyd in D, A maiden most gentle, Canon P Strange; 6, I sing of a maiden, Responses (Ayleward), Stanford in G, There is no rose (Joubert).

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Orbis factor (Plainsong), Hymne a la Vierge (Villette), The Angel Gabriel (Basque Noel), The Provost; 3 Carol Service.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Blessed are the pure in heart (Walford Davies), Darke in E, I sing of a maiden (Hedley); 6 E, Responses (Ayleward), Second Service/This is the record of John (Gibbons), The Dean.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Wills), Verily verily I say unto you (Tallis), *Ven R Acworth; 11.30 M, Holroyd in D*, Awake us Lord and hasten (Bach); 3 E, Carolus Andreas Fauxbourdon, Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Rev P de N Lucas.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Tallis), Benedicite (Batten), Alma redemptoris mater (Medieval Carol), Canon D Gray; 11.15 Abbey Euch Kyrie, (Old hall manuscript), Of a rose sing we (Medieval Carol), Advent Prose, Sanctus & Benedictus (Tyes), Agnus Dei (Power), Canon A Harvey; 3 ES for men's voices (Mundy), Canite tube in Sion (Handl), Rev G Woolfenden; 6.30 ES, Rev Canon E James.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; *10.30 SM, Missa Ave maris stella* (Victoria), Ave Maria (Bruckner), Rorate caeli desuper (Byrd), Ave maris stella (Tournemire); 3.30 Carol Service.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M; 10.30 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Vierne), Canon Walker; 3.30 E, Responses (Smith), St John's Service (Hendrie), Cantique de Jean Racine (Faure).

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Litany (Loosemore), Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rev R Hockley; 11.30 M, Responses (Jackson), Jackson in G; 4 E, Bairstow in D, This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev L Stanbridge.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Canon H Lloyd; 3.30 Choral E, Stanford in G, Responses (Ayleward), I waited for the Lord (Mendelssohn).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM, Rev A Barratt, 4 Carol Service.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 MS & HC, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), The Minister; 11.30 MS, Hymn to Mother of God (Tavener), Rev Dr J P Newell; 6 Lessons and Carols; 8 ES, *Rev J Cuthbertson*.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8, 11.30 HC, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Rorate coeli desuper (Byrd); 10.30 M, Ashfield in F, Stanford in C, Rev Canon P Pilkington; 3.15 E, Dyson in F, Fantasia on Christmas Carols (Vaughan Williams), Rev J Halliburton.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, Dundee: 8 HC; 9.40 SC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Ave Jesu (Oldroyd), Hymn à la Vierge (Villette), I sing of a maid (Hadley), The Provost; 6.30 University Carol Service.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Iste Confessor (Palestrina), Ave Maria *(Parsons), Rev E Waller*; 6 E&B, The Short Sevice (Gibbons), Ave Maria (Stravinsky), The Vicar.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11, Rev C Hobbs; 6.30 Rev Dr J Stott.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11, Mass for four voices (Tallis), The crown of roses (Tchaikovsky), The holy hand (Turner).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, Caribbean Jubilate (Kelly), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Redford), Rev P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30, Rev Stanley *Hood*.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, Fr M Beattie, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, Missa in Adventu (Haydn), Puer natus in Bethlehem (Scheidt), Verbum Caro (Schutz); 5, Advent Meditation with Christmas, Messiah (Handel).

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Mr T Peek; 11 Christingle Service, Mr T Stilwell; 5, 7.30 Carols, Rev S Millar & Rev N Gumbel.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 M, Missa Ave maris strella (Victoria), Rorate caeli desuper (Byrd); 12.30, 4.30, 7 M; 3.30 V & B, Veni veni Emmanuel (Gregorian Chant).

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev P Hulme; 3 Christingle Service.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, Rev Dr R Tudor.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev Dr J Fuliga, 7 V, Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben (Bach), Siehe ich will meinen Engel senden, Dr P Webb.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M & HC, Short Service (Byrd), Ne timeas Maria (Victoria), Preb M Shrewsbury; 6.30 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11, Lloyd in B flat, Oldroyd in D, This is the record of John (Gibbons); 6.30, Festival of Nine lessons and carols, Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11, Carol Service, St Christopher's Fellowship.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11, 6.30 Lessons for Carols for Christmas.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Missa Rorate caeli de super (Haydn), Rorate caeli (Handl), Voluntary in C minor (Roseingrave).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Coll Reg (Howells), Here O my Lord (Whitlock), The Rector; 6 Service of Nine Lessons with Carols.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Magnificat (Gibbons), Mr D Fisher; 6 Carol Service.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, The Lamb (Tavener), Rev G Beauchamp; 6.30 Service of Nine Lessons.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch & Baptism, Rev T Devonshire Jones; 3.30 Festival of Lessons and Carols.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa O Magnum Mysterium (Victoria). This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev P Ferguson.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev J Pridmore; 11.30 Visitors; 12.30 HC, Rev W Ratchford; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 6.30 ES, Rev B Schunemann.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington, W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rev F Celli; 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Celli; 6.30 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45, 7 LM; 11 HM, Ave Maria (Palestrina), Canon G Reid; 6 E&B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Mass (Plainsong), O Maria mater gratiae, There is no rose of such virtue (Joubert), Rev S Webster; 6 Carol Service.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass for three voices (Liberi), Ecce concipies (Handl); 6.30 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Short Service (Tallis), Bell Anthem (Purcell), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev C Courtauld.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 11, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rejoice in the Lord alway, Fr J Younger; 6.30 Service of Lessons and Carols.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 Christmas Carol Service, Dean of The Chapels Royal.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 Festival Service of Lessons and Carols, Canon G Jones.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 11 M, Benedicite Dyson in F, J. Smart in F, This is the record of John (Gibbons); 3.30 Carol Service.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Videte miraculum (Tallis), Wachet Auf (Bach), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11, Service of Lessons and Carols.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Sumsion in B flat; Ireland in C, Rev J Paul; 3 Carol Service.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11, 6 Festival of Lessons and Carols; 12 Choral HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch; A Great & mighty wonder (Praetorius), Christ was born on Christmas Day (Arr. Willcocks), The Chaplain.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Yet you must persevere in faith, firm on your foundations and never to be dislodged from the hope offered in the gospel you accepted.
Colossians 1 : 23 (REB)

BIRTHS

COOKE - To Libby (née Reid) and Gordon, on December 11th 1994, a son, John Jackson Churchill.

GEE - On December 13th, at The Wellington Hospital, to Suzie (née Koffman) and Jeremy. A darling daughter, Jessica Grace.

GRIFFITHS - On November 29th, to Carol and Oliver, a son, George Hubert William, a brother for Charles.

HAMILTON - To Garry and Pam, of Newcastle, Australia, a son, Thomas Alexander, born 4th December at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

HARPER - On December 12th, at The Wellington Hospital, to Penny and Nick, a son, Alexander Henry.

JOHNSON - On December 8th, to Carole (née Langridge) and Richard, a daughter Lucy Alice, a sister for Thomas.

KEITH - On December 11th in Connecticut, U.S.A. To Gillie (née Stewart-Moore) and Murray, a daughter, Rosemary Clare, a sister for Emily and Freddie.

LIDDELL - On December 14th, at St. George's Hospital, to Victoria (née Jolly) and Charles, a daughter, Frances.

LYNNE - On December 12th, to Nicola (née Spray) and William, a son, Frederick William Spencer.

LYU - On December 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Julia Wharton and Roy Lyu, their first son, Oliver. Weighing in at 9lbs 10oz!!

MASSEY - On 8th December, at St. Mary's London, to Margaret (née Howarth) and Roger, a son, Edward Arthur Champness.

MURDOCH - On December 14th, to Anne (née Holt) and David, a daughter, Sophie Victoria.

SACK - On 13th December 1994, in Epsom Surrey, to Caroline (née Cattic) and David, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth.

SIMPKISS - On December 12th, at The Wellington Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Weaver) and Jonathan, a daughter, Jane Stella.

WAKE - On 15th December, to Katherine and Edward, a daughter, Eliza.

WEIR - On 8th November to Christine (née Jenkins) and William, a daughter, Rose Victoria Bronwen, adored sister for James and Thomas.

DEATHS

BORTHWICK - On December 15th, Patrick John, peacefully at his home Te Whanga, Masterton, New Zealand aged 87. Husband of the late Nan.

THE TIMES NOTICE TO READERS

Our new telephone number for Birth, Marriage and Death announcements is

071 782 7272 or fax 071 782 7827

DEATHS

BOWDEN - On 16th December 1994 peacefully in hospital in Cheltenham, Margaret Wallace aged 90, Headmistress of Francis Holland School, Graham Terrace 1948-1965. Much loved aunt and great aunt. Private funeral at All Saints Church, Cheltenham on Wednesday 21st December 1994 at 11.45am followed by cremation at Cheltenham Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Francis Holland Graham Terrace Appeal, 35 Bourne Street, London SW1W 8JA.

COBBOLD - Patrick Mark, on Friday December 16th, suddenly and peacefully, at Glemham Hall, Suffolk. Funeral arrangements to be announced later.

GLYNN - On December 16th, peacefully at Highbury House Nursing Home, Rotting Dean, Margaret (Peggy) Glynn née Bradley. Beloved widow of Dr Eric Glynn, loving mother of Eric Ernest Glynn decd, and David Glynn, and devoted grandmother of Sasha, Emma, Charlotte and James. Requiem Mass at St Mary Magdalene's Church Brighton, 12.15pm Wednesday 21st December. Enquiries to Hanningtons Funeral Directors: Tel 0273 778733.

HARROP - On 15th December, Betty of Chipping Norton, aged 81 years. Biology Mistress, Tudor Hall School 1968-1975. No flowers. Donations to The Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Grantham, Lincs NG31 6LL. Enquiries to Sole & Son. Tel. (0608) 644112.

MACDONALD - On December 15th peacefully Duncan Brodie aged 87 years. Dearly loved husband of June, and father of Catriona, James and Anna, and grandfather. Funeral on December 20th at St Clements Church, Ashampstead, Berkshire at 12 noon.

MACZEK - At home in Edinburgh on December 11th 1994, General Stanislaw Maczek. A solemn Requiem Mass will be held on Wednesday December 21st at 11.00am at St. Mary's Cathedral, Broughton Street, Edinburgh and funeral thereafter to the 1st Polish Armoured Division Cemetery, Breda, Holland for Burial at 11am on Friday 23rd December. General Maczek will be received into the Cathedral on Tuesday evening at 6.30pm. No flowers please but if desired donations may be sent to E. Rymaszewski Esq, 27, Hale Gdns, London W3 9SQ for the First Polish Armoured Division, The Monument, Warsaw. (Cheques to 1st. Polish Armoured Division, The Monument) R.I.P.

MANSFIELD - Dr. Ruth Evelyn MBE, FFA, RCS, suddenly at home on 10th December. Dearly loved wife of the late Leonard, very dear mother of Charles and Mary, much loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. Service at Christchurch, Westminster Bridge Road, SE1, on Wednesday 21st December at 12 noon, followed by cremation at South London Crematorium, Rowan Road, SW16. Flowers or donations for Friends of Vellore c/o Yeatman & Son, Funeral Directors, 384 Norwood Road, SE27 9AA.

MITTON - Geoff, aged 70, on December 15th after a long courageous struggle against cancer. Beloved husband of Betty and father of Alison and Andrew. Much loved grandad of Tiggy, Emily, Jonathan and also to Catherine, Alex, Sarah, Michael and Rebecca. We all love and miss you, thanks for all the good times. Service of Thanks for Geoff's life, at All Saints Peppard, on Thursday 22nd December at 2.pm. Family flowers only, and donations to Sue Ryder, Nettlebed.

RASBRIDGE - William James, died on 16th December 1994. He will be cremated without service or ceremony and without any gathering together of any kind of relations or friends.

RORIE - Peacefully in Aberdeen, on Wednesday December 14th 1994, Ronald Arthur Baxter MD, DPM, FRCGP, of Laide, Wester Ross. A dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather. Funeral private.

SCHACKE-ANDERSEN - Prudence Agatha. On the 14th December, at The Royal Marsden Hospital, beloved mother of Anthea, Ellie and Gussie, devoted grandmother (and Self-Styled President of the Beastly Grannies Association); Drama Teacher and loyal friend to many. Thanks to The Marsden for the wonderful care on Horder Ward. Private cremation. All welcome at a Service of Thanksgiving Thursday 22nd December 3.00pm, St James's Norlands, Addison Avenue, London W11. Family flowers only, donations if desired to League of Friends, Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3.

SHEPHERD-CROSS - On 16th December, peacefully at Oak Tree Nursing Home, Alne, Mollie widow of Michael and mother of Giles, June and James. Cremation Service 10.00am Wednesday 21st December at York Crematorium, family only. Service of Thanksgiving, at 2.00pm Brandsby Church, also on Wednesday 21st December.

SPIRIDION - On December 15th, peacefully in hospital, formerly of Chichester, Mary beloved wife of the late Lt. Colonel Bernard Boleshaw Spiridion Royal Engineers, dear mother of Richard, daughter-in-law Carolyn and grandson Jamie. Service and cremation Landican (Birkenhead) Centre Chapel Wednesday December 21st at 9.30am. No flowers. Donations, if desired, for Friends of Chichester Cathedral may be sent c/o Henry Norman F/D, The Cross, Neston, South Wirral, L64 9UB. Tel: 051 336 4184

STAINTON del BONO - Amendment. Remembrance Service Now 12.15pm Monday December 19th St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, London SW3.

STEVENS - On 14th December 1994, Hannah Elizabeth (Nancie) dearly loved mother of David and Colin, and a much loved Nana. Funeral service at Bournemouth Crematorium on 21st December at 1pm. All enquiries c/o JJ Allen, Funeral Directors, Seamoor Road, Bournemouth. Tel. 0202 765766.

STUART-UNDERWOOD - On 14th December 1994, John Bernard, husband of Valerie. Funeral Service at Putney Vale Crematorium, at 4.15pm on Monday 19th December 1994.

WEGG-PROSSER - Michael died on the 21st November 1994, peacefully at his home in Uganda. Michael formerly of Warham, Breinton, Hereford, was buried near his home on 23rd November 1994 in the presence of some 250 of his friends and neighbours.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

EZE - In loving and unfading memory of beloved Captain Ikenna (Ike), suddenly on December 18th 1989. 'Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, keep him Lord in safety keep, nothing can thy power with stand, none can pluck him from his hand'. Sadly missed by his wife Louie, the Broad-Davies family, his mother, brother, sisters and nephews.

HOLMES - John, died 17th December 1985. A loved son of Geo and Marie.

JEFFREYS - In proud and loving memory of Robin Edmund, Captain Royal Navy DSC. Also of John Derell, Lieut. K.O.S.B. attached No.2 Commando killed in action in Sicily 1943. Also of Edmund Henry, Flight Lieutenant RAF, DFC, shot down over the Channel 1944.

MESTON - Dougall 2nd Baron of Agra and Dunnottar. This day on his 100th birthday. Sadly missed by his family.

PHILLIPS - Alfred AL. December 16th 1989. My beloved husband, you live forever in my heart and the love that I have is yours. Val.

SANGSTER - Vernon. On December 17th 1986, my very dearly loved husband. Treasured memories and always so sadly missed. From Peggie and family.

SAYERS - Dorothy L. 17th December 1957. "Her work a memorial more lasting than bronze". Dorothy L. Sayers Society, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9JY.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

GOVE:SHORTHOUSE - Robert and Doris married 18th December 1954 at Cramond Kirk, Edinburgh. Congratulations from John, Hazel and their families.

LEGAL NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - Trust Property held in connection with the the Polish Evangical Church of Augsburg Confession Abroad
The Charity Commissioners have made a scheme for this charity. A copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting reference number MOT-158862-CD(Ldn4).

No 007075 of 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF ROVARD FACILITIES LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 30th November 1994 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £5,113,820 to £1,164,845 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 8th December 1994.
DATED the 14th day of December 1994.
Messrs. Edge & Ellison
Rutland House
148 Edmund Street
Birmingham
B3 2JR
Solicitors for the above-named Company

THE LONDON FEDERATION OF CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Bridge House, Bridge House Quay, Prestons Road, London E14 9QA, or obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting reference MOT/303524/2/CD(LDN1).
Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

TRUSTEE ACTS

SARAH WEBSTER SIMPSON (DECEASED)
Would anyone with knowledge of the whereabouts of any relatives of the above-named deceased, late of 34 Riverside Road Leyland Lancashire who died on the 22nd November 1994 or the whereabouts of a Will made by the above-named please contact Hardwicks Solicitors of 10 St. Thomas's Road Chorley Lancashire - Ref: PM

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

HART, LESLIE OSBORNE Of Worcester Road, Sutton, Surrey, Formally Wildways, 81 Pine Walk, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, died on 30th May 1994. Particulars to Godfrey Davis & Baldwin Solicitors of 19A Upper Green East, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2DX, before 15th March 1995.

HOWLETT, Muriel Grace of BEECHWOOD HOUSE, WOODBERRY LANE, ROWLANDS CASTLE, HAMPSHIRE (formerly of 4 CHASE HILL, ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX) died on 13th NOVEMBER 1994 particulars to WRIGHT SON & PEPPER Solicitors of 9 GRAY'S INN SQUARE, LONDON WC1R 5JF before 18TH FEBRUARY 1995

Joan Marjorie Scurlock deceased Late of Croydon, Surrey. Died on 23rd September 1994
Particulars of any claims to be made to Rawlence & Hart, Solicitors of 53 Chatsworth Road, Croydon, CR9 1LE, reference: MDH, before 28th February, 1995.

LOGAN, BARBARA MARY of BRITTO HOUSE, PAMBARPURAM, KODAIKANAL, TAMIL NADU, SOUTH INDIA died on 11th FEBRUARY 1991 particulars to LEE BOLTON & LEE Solicitors of 1 THE SANCTUARY, WESTMINSTER, LONDON SW1P 3JT before 18TH FEBRUARY 1995.

MATTHEWS, ENID VICTORIA Address: Ardually Retirement Home, Station Lane, Ingatestone, Essex. Died on 12th August 1994. Particulars to: ADRIAN AUBREY MARKS & DAVID FREEDMAN, Executors of ENID VICTORIA MATTHEWS c/o Samuels Marks Freedman & Neifeld, 37 Gloucester Place, London, W1H 4AR on or before: 19th February 1995

RAWLINSON, PETER ARTHUR DOUGLAS of 4 ORMONDE COURT, ST EDMUNDS CLOSE, LONDON NW8 died on 19TH AUGUST 1994 particulars to ALSOP WILKINSON Solicitors of 6 DOWGATE HILL, LONDON EC4R 2SS (Ref: JEH8) before 18TH FEBRUARY 1995

TRUSTEE ACTS

ROLT, WILLA MAE of NIGHTINGALES COTTAGE, COMBS LANE, CHALFONT ST GILES, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE died on 17TH SEPTEMBER 1994 particulars to B P COLLINS & CO Solicitors of COLLINS HOUSE, 32/38 STATION ROAD, GERRARDS CROSS, BUCKS SL9 8EL before 18TH FEBRUARY 1995

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JAMES WULSTON MEADOWS b. Liverpool 1915. Married Elizabeth Amy Davidson 1946, Alexandria, Egypt. Child 1947. M. Walsh (Meadows) 28 Halsey Cresc. Liverpool L12 7HW Eng.

LES AMIS DU VIN, London, W1. Small quantities of wine and Port held on behalf of customers we cannot trace. If you have stock held, write to The Manager, Les Amis Du Vin 430 High Road, London NW10 2HA. State name and address, wine held, vintage and quantity. Your letter should arrive by 31st of Jan 1995. We will only enter into correspondence with people who match our customer reserved records.

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OBITUARIES

LIEUT-COMMANDER GEORGE GRAHAM

Lieutenant-Commander George Graham, DSC and two Bars, MBE, destroyer captain and farm manager, died on December 4 aged 75. He was born on August 24, 1919.



GEORGE GRAHAM's eventful seagoing career began unremarkably enough as a Merchant Navy cadet in the British India Line. Graduating from the training ship *Worcester* in 1937, he saw much of the Far East in the *SS Devon* and *SS Dunera*, also taking the opportunity to join the Royal Naval Reserve.

This ensured that at the outbreak of war he would be rapidly recruited. His first experience of action was as a sub-lieutenant in May 1940 when his ship, the destroyer *Gallant*, took part in the Dunkirk evacuations. The *Gallant* was one of 41 destroyers in that operation, of which six were sunk and 12 damaged. Although the evacuation is remembered for the role played by the brave "little ships", it is nevertheless the case that the bigger naval destroyers rescued more than 96,000 soldiers. On May 29, in company with two others, *Gallant* was attacked by a large force of dive-bombers and the underwater shock of a near-miss put her out of action.

Probably because of his Merchant Navy expertise, Graham was appointed to the fast and modern naval supply ship *Breconshire* which bore a charmed life running fuel to Malta from Alexandria and in other convoy operations. But by March 1942 Axis opposition was making things tough in the eastern Mediterranean: it was only the brilliant tactics of Admiral Sir Philip Vian's cruisers in fending off a vastly superior Italian force at the Battle of Sirte which allowed the *Breconshire* and others to reach Malta with desperately needed supplies. But the *Breconshire* was damaged by aircraft eight miles from harbour and was eventually beached in the bay at Marsaxlokk, most of her cargo being lost. Graham, who had already received a mention in dispatches and was still only a sub-lieutenant, was awarded his first DSC for his gallantry, skill and seamanship.

After a period working under a hail of bombs for the Sea Transport Officer in Malta, Graham returned home to join the destroyer *Echo*, which soon returned to the Mediterranean theatre. During operations preparatory to the landings in Sicily in July 1943, *Echo* and another destroyer, *Ilex*, found and sank the Italian submarine *Nereide* off the toe of Italy. As the anti-submarine control officer, Graham was awarded a bar to his DSC.

In September 1943 *Echo* was part of the escort at the surrender of the major warships of the Italian fleet and their internment at Malta. The Italian surrender provided an opportunity radically to improve the strategic balance in the Dodecanese islands and in the Aegean but because of the robust German reaction, the British were unable to hold on to the islands of Kos, Leros and Samos which they had invaded. Desperate measures were taken to reinforce: on one occasion the war correspondent L. Marsland Gander recorded that "it was crazy to expect a destroyer to enter the enclosed harbour at Leros, by night and less than 25 miles from the German airfied at Kos".

This destroyer was *Echo*, which landed further troops and lifted out Marsland Gander. For his work during this period, Graham received a second mention in dispatches.

During his time on board, Graham rose to second-in-command and then captain of the *Echo*. In April 1944 she was loaned to the Greek Navy and Graham returned home for a well-earned rest and to stand by as second-in-command of the new destroyer *Cavendish*, built at John Brown's yard in Glasgow. *Cavendish* arrived in the Far East too late to take part in the Pacific war, but was employed finding and collecting Allied prisoners of war. On January 10, 1945, Graham transferred to the Royal Navy, was promoted to lieutenant-commander and took command of *Cavendish* until her reduction to reserve in 1946.

He was subsequently given command of the destroyers *Savage* and *Zephyr* in the Home Fleet. In 1946 he married Audrey Deighton MacDonald, a Wren whom he had met before the war in 1939.

Seconded on loan service to the Royal New Zealand Navy, he took *HMNZS Hawea* (formerly the Loch class frigate *Lock Eck*) out to New Zealand, paying visits to remote dependencies and attending upon Queen Salote of Tonga.

During the Korean War, New Zealand supported the United Nations' maritime campaign by maintaining two frigates permanently on station. Graham took command of the *Rotoiti* (formerly *HMS Loch Katrine*) in January 1952 and was heavily occupied in the support of military operations on the west coast of the Korean peninsula. This involved clandestine landings by small parties at night, bombardment of land targets and duels with Chinese shore batteries. So effective was his co-operation with United States forces that Graham was made a member of the Legion of Merit with permission to wear the decoration in British uniform. He was also awarded his third DSC in May 1953 for distinguished service in Korean waters.

Humdrum appointments at a naval air station in Northern Ireland and the naval barracks at St Angelo in Malta were followed in 1958 by loan service with the Royal Malayan Navy for two years, first as Operations Officer in Singapore and then in charge of operations, plans and intelligence in Kuala Lumpur. Malaya had been independent since 1957 and was feeling its way towards a Malaysian federation; this led to questions of sovereignty and internal subversion. For his work in these posts, Graham was appointed MBE and awarded the Malayan decoration Pingat Khidmat Berbakti.

After three years with the reserve fleet, he retired from the Navy in 1964 to pursue his ambition to become a farmer. This required a return to school at the National College of Agriculture at Dorchester and the pursuit of posts advertised in the *Farmers' Weekly*, until he eventually found a niche in Kent for eight years as the farm manager for Robin Leigh-Pemberton, afterwards Governor of the Bank of England. Graham and his wife subsequently ran their own smallholding near Ashford.

His final career, in which he continued until 1981, was as a second mate and part-time navigator for Sealink cross-Channel ferries. He was a man of such conspicuous modesty that his many decorations and his numerous and successful warship commands were never allowed to interfere with these perhaps more mundane duties.

He is survived by his wife Audrey and their son and daughter.

THE VERY REV JOHN WADDINGTON

The Very Rev John Waddington, MBE, TD, Provost of Bury St Edmunds, 1958-76, died on November 23 aged 84. He was born on February 10, 1910.



JOHN WADDINGTON was a dignitary of the Anglican Church built very much in the classic mould. If there is a division in the Church of England — as there used to be in the public schools and the universities — between "hearties" and "arties", then Waddington belonged very much to the hearties' wing.

Some of his happiest years were spent as an Army chaplain. He joined the Territorial Army in 1935, served throughout the Second World War mainly in the Middle East and Italy, being twice mentioned in dispatches, rising to be a deputy assistant chaplain general and being appointed MBE in 1945. Even when the war was over, he continued his military connection until 1958, serving as DACG of the TA's Eastern Command and being awarded the Territorial Decoration for his long service.

He was the product, in fact, of a recognisable Anglican tradition going back to the days of "Tubby" Clayton, Studdert Kennedy ("Woodbine Willie") and Christopher Chavasse. If Waddington suffered a misfortune, it was to have to live his life slightly after the great age of "men's men" within the Church of England had come to an end. Although once nominated for a bishopric (that of Bermuda) he was compelled to withdraw when the diocese's electoral college failed to ratify the Archbishop of Canterbury's selection.

No further invitation to join the episcopal bench was forthcoming — a reflection perhaps more on the leadership deficiencies of Michael Ramsey than on the personal qualities of Waddington himself — and he was left to serve out a full 18 years as Provost of Bury St Edmunds.

John Albert Henry Waddington was born in south London and was educated at Wandsworth School and London University, where he took a BComm in 1929. Starting out in business, he still managed to be ordained — after a spell at the low church London College of Divinity — by the minimum statutory age of 23.

He served two curacies in the diocese of Southwark before being appointed in 1938 rector of a group of three villages in Norfolk. But it was the war that determined his future — as was demonstrated by his being presented in 1945 to the important living of St Peter Mancroft in Norwich.

His 13 years there were in some ways the most productive of Waddington's ministry. His gifts as a preacher ensured that he built up a large congregation and he became a considerable figure in that fine city. In some ways, his appointment in 1958 to what in those days was very much the parish church cathedral of St James in Bury St Edmunds was something of a comedown. The atmosphere in Suffolk was much sleepier than he had been accustomed to in Norfolk and the prime challenge he faced was that of fundraising for the enlargement of the mother church of the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

He set to work, however, with a will and finally succeeded in raising more than £1 million — enabling most, though not all, of the plans of the architect, Stephen Dykes Bower, to be fulfilled. The present cathedral — a graceful, if rather conventional, building — is very much a monument to Waddington's hard work.

He also played an energetic part in the wider life of the Church, preaching throughout the country and serving both in the old Church Assembly and as a Church Commissioner. He was appointed an honorary canon of Norwich in 1951 and was a member of the Greater Chapter there until his preferment to Bury St Edmunds.

He continued active even in retirement, lecturing in America for the English Speaking Union — his favourite topic, characteristically, was English pub signs — and leading many pilgrimages abroad. An ardent Freemason, he less predictably, even for a moderate low churchman, had a keen interest in the theatre and served for a number of years as a chaplain of the Actors' Church Union.

John Waddington married in 1938 Marguerite Day. She died in 1986, and he is survived by their two daughters.

CONNIE KAY

Connie Kay, jazz drummer, died in New York on November 30 aged 67. He was born in Tuckahoe, New York, on April 27, 1927.



Connie Kay drumming with the Modern Jazz Quartet

"WHETHER he is playing the finger cymbals, or accompanying the blues," wrote the jazz critic Martin Williams, "Connie Kay shows a combination of disciplined musicianship and expressiveness that jazz has rarely seen." It was this very combination that made Kay the perfect choice to play drums in the Modern Jazz Quartet, when the group's original drummer, Kenny Clarke, left in February 1955.

The job in one of the most popular and successful of all jazz groups lasted, with a few interruptions, for the rest of Kay's life. The MJQ created a distinctive brand of jazz chamber music in which subtlety of sound supplanted loudness and where an almost classical use of fugue and counterpoint was married to eloquent improvisation and a compulsive sense of swing.

Kay's drumming integrated perfectly with the ambitions of the MJQ's pianist, John Lewis, to take the band into the concert hall (out of the jazz club circuit) and to play for audiences who came to listen, not simply to have a good time. Kay's style was minimalist, as effective in its use of space and silence as in the formidable technical ability he showed in his rare solos. He sought to extend the timbres of the conventional drum kit by adding other percussion instruments, and this gave the quartet an extraordinary range of expressive possibilities alongside Milt Jackson's vibraharp, Lewis's piano, and the bass of Percy Heath.

English audiences will remember with affection Kay's solo feature *Sasha's March*, included in the MJQ's 1987 Bath festival concert, rebroadcast last year by Radio 3.

Kay was born Conrad Henry Kirnon, of West Indian parents. He started piano lessons at the age of six, but four years later had taught himself drums, and by his early teens he was playing with a band led by the saxophonist Fats Noel. Soon he was working with the pianist Sir Charles Thompson, before becoming a regular drummer (aged only 17) at Minton's Playhouse in New York where he worked with Miles Davis among others.

He toured with rhythm and blues shows but came firmly to the attention of the jazz public when he joined Lester Young. He recorded with Stan Getz and Coleman Hawkins. The MJQ had been created by John Lewis and Milt Jackson in 1952 from the rhythm section of Dizzy Gillespie's big band, with Ray Brown on bass and Kenny Clarke on drums. Percy Heath replaced Brown later that year and by 1955, when Clarke left, it had created its own niche as one of the most widely popular jazz groups around.

Kay was the perfect replacement for Clarke, not only musically but in his demeanour. A tall, dignified man, he helped to bring the required air of hushed solemnity to the MJQ's visual image as well as a complexity of rhythms to its music.

Spending almost forty years with the same group is virtually unparalleled in jazz history. Milt Jackson said of Kay: "It got so we could breathe together. After you've rehearsed three or four times a day, five days a week, you get like that. I can guess what colour shirt he's going to come walking in the room with."

During the group's few years apart, Kay was not idle, playing with Benny Goodman and Tommy Flanagan, as well as taking a residency at Eddie Condon's Dixieland club in New York. He had enjoyed a varied freelance career in any event, so that even while working with the MJQ he played on records by musicians as different as Paul Desmond, Cannonball Adderley and Van Morrison.

Because of its longevity and popularity, the Modern Jazz Quartet has tended to be overlooked by jazz critics. Kay's understated contribution in particular is often equated with the idea that they had said all they had to say many years ago. But while he admitted that some of the youthful fires had dimmed, Kay often went on record pointing out the extraordinary range of their work, from film scores to ballets, plus a punishing schedule of concerts, and boasting that within all this "no one in the group ever plays the same thing twice".

He leaves a widow and two sons.

ICHIRO OGIMURA

Ichiro Ogimura, former world table tennis champion and president of the International Table Tennis Federation, died in Tokyo on December 4 aged 62. He was born in Ito City, Japan, on June 25, 1932.

ICHIRO OGIMURA was a rare phenomenon, having reached the very top of his sport both as a player and as an administrator. During his active career in the 1950s he held 12 world titles in singles, mixed doubles and team competitions and was, at the time of his death, president of table tennis's governing body, the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), regulating the game in 150 countries.

Equally remarkable, Ogimura achieved this as a revolutionary. Forty years ago he was one of the new wave of "pen-holder" grip players who transformed the game. As president of the ITTF since 1987 he accelerated the march towards professionalising a sport which had traditionally been seen as an amateur or family game.

Ogimura died just as his reforms were gathering momentum. He supervised progress of the sport's first grand prix, the World All Stars Circuit in 1990, helped to begin the World Team Cup competition in the same year and was the crusading spirit behind the worldwide ban of certain glues used in the production of table tennis bats in 1992.

Many believe that this last step saved the health and perhaps even the lives of millions of young people. The moment evidence became irrefutable that many adhesives used to attach rubber sheets to bats damaged health, Ogimura insisted on legislation, even though this took place in the middle of a season and proved extremely difficult to implement.

However, Ogimura was an idealist who wanted his sport to be clean and safe and to be seen to be so. He was captivated by the Olympic ethic and was determined to show that table tennis was exemplary. Probably his proudest moment came in 1988, when he was able to lead table tennis as president of the ITTF on its Olympic debut in Seoul.

The decision to make him president was a controversial one, as his predecessor as president, Roy Evans, had been the prime mover in getting table tennis into the Olympics, and Ogimura had stood for election against the Welshman only the year before, in 1987. Some thought Ogimura should have waited and allowed Evans his share of the limelight, but the ITTF had already gone 60 years with only two presidents — both of them British — and Ogimura's bid for the post had a good deal of support from China.



To have a Japanese and, perhaps more importantly, an Asian in charge, better fitted the balance of interests within the sport, mastery of which had swung eastwards in the 1950s with a bevy of Japanese players. Ogimura was not quite the first of these startling new world champions — that was his controversial compatriot Hiroji Sato who played, in the early 1950s, with a thick sponge bat which quickly became illegal.

But Ogimura was the best of the new wave, winning the men's singles world title first at Wembley in 1954 when he was still a student at Nihon University and again in Tokyo in 1956, using a stunningly fast all-out attack. For a long time this helped to convince coaches that attack using one side of the bat only was superior to that using the western shakehands grip in which the bat had to be turned to use both sides.

Ideas have changed again since then and it was not surprising, therefore, that Ogimura usually looked favourably upon change. As ITTF president he encouraged experiments into different scoring systems, shorter matches and larger balls, and also with blue tables, orange balls and red floors, many of which have since been adopted.

He coached in Sweden, China and the United States, and was regarded as the national trainer in Japan until quite recently.

Ogimura was also a successful businessman in Japan, owning a table tennis equipment company and being president of an iron and steel company.

He is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Court & Social Page

Over the Christmas period the following deadlines will apply:-

Notices to appear on Friday, December 23 should be received in writing by 5pm on Wednesday, December 21

Notices to appear on Saturday, December 24; Monday, December 26; Tuesday, December 27; Wednesday, December 28 should be received in writing by 12 noon on Thursday, December 22

ALL notices are subject to confirmation
Tel: 071 782 7347 Fax: 071 481 9313

THE TIMES
Christmas Greetings
December 24th

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Is this Christmas special to you?
Is it your first Christmas together?
Is it your child or grandchild's first Christmas?

Whatever the reason for this year being special, mark it for posterity in The Times on 24th December and a copy will be sent to you as a keepsake.

EXAMPLES

GORDON Clare. Just to say we really appreciate you. Happy Christmas, your family.

Ben & Janna
We are really happy to be spending this Christmas together with you.
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We love you both very much.
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FRANCE

(BY TELEGRAPH.)
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
PARIS, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16, 9.30 P.M.

The topic of the day is the snow. Paris has been clad for a day in the colour so dear to the Legitimists; but this whim will only last the time a snowflake takes to melt in the first rays of the sun. The snow began to fall at 3 o'clock this morning, and the city woke up as white as a bride of the *Opéra Comique*. The large trees in the promenades shook their snow flowers on the passers-by and the entire city, usually so noisy, became all at once dumb under the thick bed of snow which enveloped it. Carriages were few and far between; a few short-winded horses, harnessed to numbered vehicles, painfully drew their daily load across the snow which accumulated under the wheels. As for private equipages, they were hardly to be seen, the horses of the aristocracy refusing to stir out without being rough-shod. Fortunately, the Parisians, even those of the upper circles, are less rigid than their horses, and find in the snow a pretext for showing an elegantly-shod foot mounted on Louis Quinze heels, which gaily traversed the snow of the boulevards and the ice of the pavements. In the great thoroughfares of the city, a thick circle of spectators surround four or five combatants armed with snowballs. The encounter has lasted ten minutes, and there are already two parties among the lookers-on. Some bet on the combatants to the right and others on those to the left. Considering the short time it lasts, there will be as much division in this circle as in the National Assembly itself; for it is a special trait of the French spectators that they cannot interest themselves in anything without immediately changing their role of impartial spectator for that of heated actor. I move off at the moment when the two parties begin to exchange abuse, and before going ten steps I catch the sound of a crossfire of insults, in which the words: "*Aristo*" and "*Communard*" predominate. It is the Extreme Right and the Radical Left who are loading each other with Parliamentary epithets. At the corner of the Boulevard Haussmann and the Pépinière Barracks, another rather large circle are laughingly applauding without my being at first able to understand the ground of their approbation. On approaching nearer, I find a Paris *gamin*, his blue blouse turned up to the elbows, and his cap all on one side over his right ear, who is performing with four hard snowballs, after the fashion of Indian jugglers. He stops now and then to tell the spectators with the peculiar voice characteristic of Guignol and brandy,—"Excuse me, gentlemen, my ivory melts; I must go to the shop for some more," stoops, remakes his four balls, recommences his juggling, and then, cap in hand, goes round the circle . . . Here is a vocation which will be ruined by the first glimpse of sunshine. This juggler belongs doubtless to the same category of *industriels* as the client of the police-court whose trade was smoking bits of glass for watching eclipses, and who excused himself for thieving on the ground that there were too frequently dull seasons in his profession . . .

ON THIS DAY

December 17 1874

Our correspondent begins his dispatch in a light-hearted vein before proceeding to the serious topics of the university and baby-farming Bills

THE TIMES TODAY SATURDAY DECEMBER 17 1994

NEWS

Tories blame feuding

■ The Prime Minister urged Conservatives to "pull in the same direction" as Tory MPs blamed bitter feuding at Westminster for their worst by-election defeat by Labour for 60 years.

While Tories tried to pick up the pieces after Labour romped home with a 20,000 majority in Dudley West, John Major is preparing an offensive to try to explain the economic recovery to the public ..... **Page 1**

Russian army on brink of mutiny

■ A third of the Russian force sent into Chechenia stood on the brink of mutiny against President Yeltsin after its commander vowed not to use force against the Chechens and declared the invasion unconstitutional ..... **Pages 1, 9**

Hindley watch

Myra Hindley is under observation in case she tries to harm herself after learning that she is to stay in jail ..... **Page 1**

Banking sting

Britain helped to establish a bank for crooks in the West Indies as part of a sting against Colombia's drug cartels ..... **Page 1**

Widow's threat

A Harley Street doctor's widow accused of stealing a credit card and forging cheques belonging to the Hon Eleanor Berry threatened to sue her after being cleared by a jury ..... **Page 3**

Peace promise

John Bruton, Ireland's new Prime Minister, met Gerry Adams to underline his commitment to the peace process ..... **Page 4**

Infant curriculum

Ministers are considering a national curriculum for the under-fives ..... **Page 5**

Christmas message

The quasi-secular character of Christmas makes it popular, said the Archbishop of York ..... **Page 7**

Bye-bye Dee Dee

Dee Dee Myers, America's first female White House press secretary, announced her resignation, leaving the Administration short of prominent women ..... **Page 8**

Hunt defended

A Tanzanian company responsible for the safaris in which four semi-tame elephants were killed by German and American tourists, defended its actions ..... **Page 9**

Besieged Gibraltar

Gibraltar is under virtual siege. Spain has imposed strict border controls ..... **Page 10**

Indian reshuffle

At least 18 Indian ministers have offered to resign to allow the Prime Minister, to reshuffle his Cabinet ..... **Page 11**

Princess returns to the limelight

■ The Princess of Wales continued her return to public life by visiting the hotel where, 12 months ago, she announced her retreat from the limelight. A buoyant Princess in pale peach suit and pearls arrived at the Hilton in London where last December, close to tears, she asked for understanding ..... **Page 3**

JAMES MORGAN



Christmas cheer: disappointing sales and shoppers waiting until the last minute have inspired retailers to entice customers with cut prices as this store, in Oxford Street, London, showed yesterday. **Page 6**

OPINION

After Dudley: Over-excited psephologists have inevitably extrapolated the result to a general election in which the Conservatives won no seats at all ..... **Page 12**

Bruton's burden: The Unionist community has high expectations. After a year of Anglo-Irish diplomacy dominated by nationalist concerns, it is time that the other side was heard ..... **Page 12**

Lights up: One town's taste lights up another's tackiness. But the notion of lighting up the darkest days has become a tradition ..... **Page 12**

THE PAPERS

If the middle class get a tax cut, it's likely to be both pretty small and wiped out by higher interest rates — *USA Today*

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG: Mr Major's big task is reconciliation. It is one of his skills but he sometimes gets too angry to use it. Unless the Conservative Party can retain its unity, it cannot win back lost voters ..... **Page 12**

MARK GIROUARD: The National Theatre is vulnerable because it is only beginning to climb out of the trough of fashion — we don't like concrete ..... **Page 12**

OBITUARIES

Lieut Commander George Graham, captain and farm manager; **the Very Rev John Waddington,** Provost of Bury St Edmunds **Page 15**

LETTERS

National Lottery ..... **Page 13**

BUSINESS

Arrest: The former chairman of a specialist chemical firm which won an award for Export Achievement in 1990 has been arrested after an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office ..... **Page 19**

Power: Yorkshire Electricity said it may have to close its lose-making Homepower unless a buyer is lined up within a few months ..... **Page 17**

Aerospace: Britain's aerospace industry will this weekend celebrate the best news they have heard for a decade — the chance to compete for £14 billion of work ... **Page 17**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 40.2 to 3013.6. Sterling rose to 80.4, up from $1.5613 to $1.5627 and from DM2.4544 to DM2.4555 ..... **Page 20**

SPORT

Cricket: England begin a four-day game against Queensland, trying to regroup after their bad results of the past week and suffering a long injury list ..... **Page 32**

Football: John Spencer, a striker valued for quick feet and rapid reactions, may for the first time have a place in Scotland's starting line-up against Greece ..... **Page 31**

Skiing: Josef Strobl, of Austria, became the first skier to win his first World Cup downhill when he triumphed in the opening race of the season in Val d'Isère **Page 32**

Snooker: John Parrott reached the final of the European Open in Antwerp with a 6-4 victory over Nigel Bond ..... **Page 30**

SATURDAY TIMES

VISION



Comedy: Alan B'Stard and seasonal specials: a turkey-free menu ..... **Page 46**
Films: Complete listing plus the pick of more than 700 movies ..... **Page 8**
Children: Parents' guide to holiday viewing ..... **Page 6**

WEEKEND



Red Cross appeal: Ruth Gledhill reports on the tireless work of the Red Cross from the squalor of the Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire ..... **Page 1**
On the skids: Kevin Eason takes a crash course in driving on ice and tells how you can go for a spin this winter ..... **Page 11**
Festive outings: A nationwide guide to Christmas events for all the family, and where to celebrate with a carol ..... **Page 13**
Garden giveaway: How to get free anemone corms and wild flower seeds, plus priority bookings for the Chelsea Flower Show ..... **Pages 22, 16**

WEEKEND ARTS



Seventy years on the hoof: As *That's Entertainment III* tours British cinemas, Ann Miller — veteran dancing partner of Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly — recalls the great days ..... **Page 5**
Week in the Arts: Few blood sports appeal to the British more than the invigorating pastime of Putting the Boot into Architects ..... **Page 5**
Best videos on 1994: From the glories of Jane Campion's *The Piano* to the animated magic of Disney's 1937 *Snow White* — Geoff Brown selects the year's most worthwhile releases ..... **Page 6**
Hi-fi jungle: Those contemplating buying a sound system should head for a specialist ..... **Page 6**

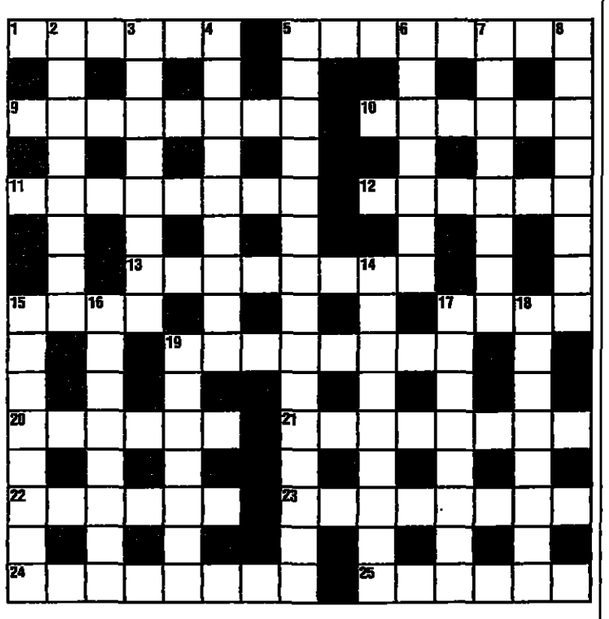
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,728

KNOCKANDO PURE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

.....



ACROSS

1 Young man much admired a bird with nothing on (6).
5 It'll provide assistance if flier's arranged to come in (8).
9 Motorway's main cause of injury (8).
10 Return material to front of shop — that's a way out (6).
11 Deadly stuff heartless poisoner ordered at first? (8).
12 Sportsman takes barrier on course right (6).
13 Rugby player to keep well away from (5-3).
15 Turn round and leer without hesitation? (4).
17 Pronounced poetic pieces a great achievement (4).
19 Foreign girl runs into trouble in Estonia (8).
20 Pop music in key obscured by enthusiastic backing (6).
21 It's held back by resident for a buddy (8).
22 Hard-hearted artist takes a flower (6).
23 Untrustworthy as, for example, sovereign is (3-5).
24 Drive off as convertible gets near (8).
25 Sort of organ (6).

DOWN

2 Individual characters make an impression (8).
3 On the other side in the French game (8).
4 Spring one trap, and talk at length about it (9).
5 Refuse collector shifted deal of old litter (6,9).
6 Some foliage used by gardener, initially, for dressing (3-4).
7 Monarch's contributed to tax, in practice (8).
8 I had set up firm in this region (8).
14 Weapon used to make pirate secure (9).
15 University pair forming neat link (8).
16 Some securities newly issued could be a risky venture (4,4).
17 Agricultural worker's strong body parts (8).
18 He is involved with the ultimate in exquisite taste (8).
19 Way a bird collected vital bits of flowers (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,722

H	E	N	R	Y	J	A	M	E	S			S	I	
	C	H	A	O		K	I	T	T	E	N			
M	A	J	O	R	C	A	N		U		R		C	
	R		D	K		T	E	A	H	O	U	S	E	
	T		E	T	A					C		N		
L	E	N	S		H	A	N	D	P	I	C	K	E	D
U			I	E	A		I		U		I			
M	I	R	A	C	L	E		O	L	Y	M	P	I	A
B		O		A		P		G		I		R		
E	D	W	A	R	D	L	E	A	R		S	W	A	Y
R		D			A		I		M		N			
J	O	Y	S	T	I	C	K		M		A		G	
A		I		D		I	N	A	C	T	I	O	N	
C	A	S	S	I	O		N		G		C		R	
K		M		L	O	G	G	E	R	H	E	A	D	

Solution to Puzzle No 19,727

M	A	J	O	R	B	A	R	B	A	R	A			
O		U		E		G		I		E		P		B
D	E	D	U	C	T	I	O	N		A	B	O	D	E
I		G		I		N		L		V		S		A
C	R	E	E	P	S		L	I	C	E	N	S	E	D
U			I			N			I		L			
M	A	I	D	E	N		S	E	N	S	I	B	L	E
	N			N		T		R		T		L		
N	I	C	E	T	I	E	S		P	A	P	Y	R	I
E		H			R			G			C			
W	E	A	P	O	N	R	Y		D	E	P	O	S	E
T		R		W		I		S		D		K		B
O	R	G	A	N		F	A	C	T	O	R	A	G	E
N		E		E		I		U		O		P		R
			G	R	A	C	E	D	A	R	L	I	N	G

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *P Mitchell, Worcester Park, Surrey; D E C Yale, Portmadoc, Gwynedd; G C Harvey, West Ewell, Surrey; P S Raderecht, Chippenham, Wiltshire; M Martin, Caernarvon, Gwynedd.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc's,Avon,Somrs	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
8.01 am	3.52 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
7.08 am	3.48 pm

Full Moon today

London 3.52 pm to 8.02 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.11 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.40 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.21 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.17 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
8.02 am	3.52 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
7.56 am	4.41 pm

Last quarter December 25

London 3.52 pm to 8.03 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.12 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.41 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.22 am
Penzance 4.21 pm to 8.17 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.01	6.6	1.20	6.5
Aberdeen	12.37	4.1	12.58	4.2
Avonmouth	6.32	12.4	6.53	12.2
Belfast	10.28	3.4	10.48	3.1
Cardiff	6.18	11.36	6.41	11.34
Devonport	4.59	6.2	5.18	5.1
Dover	10.33	6.2	10.55	6.4
Falmouth	4.29	5.0	4.48	4.9
Glasgow	12.25	4.5	12.29	4.8
Harwich	11.16	3.7	11.37	3.8
Holyhead	9.47	5.3	10.02	5.2
Hull	5.49	6.79	8.02	6.96
Ilfracombe	5.20	8.61	5.41	8.58
King's Lynn	5.47	6.1	6.04	6.3
Leith	1.49	5.1	2.10	5.2
Liverpool	10.38	8.9	10.55	8.8
Lowestoft	8.45	2.4	9.03	2.5
Margate	11.30	4.4	11.45	4.6
Milford Haven	5.37	6.5	5.57	6.5
Newquay	4.29	8.5	4.49	8.5
Oban	5.00	3.8	5.26	3.8
Penzance	3.58	5.3	4.16	5.2
Portland	5.49	2.0	6.12	1.8
Portsmouth	10.38	4.5	11.04	4.4
Shoreham	10.35	5.9	11.01	5.8
Southampton	10.10	4.4	10.34	4.3
Swansea	5.41	8.9	6.04	8.9
Tees	2.57	4.8	3.19	4.0
W'ton-on-Nze	11.09	4.0	11.29	4.0

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Penzance, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Connigsby, Lincolnshire, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Tiree, Hebrides, 0.17in; highest sunshine: Sandown, Isle of Wight, 6.9hr.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a mostly cloudy day, although some eastern districts may brighten a little for a while in the afternoon. There will be rain or drizzle at times, especially on southern and western coasts. In the evening more persistent rain will reach northwest England and North Wales.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be dull and wet for a while, with heavy rain at times. During the afternoon it is likely to turn brighter in most places, with some sunshine, but showers too. This clearer weather will reach eastern Scotland during the evening.

Temperatures will be well above average, but it will be windy.

☐ **London, E Anglia, Midlands, E, Central N, NE England:** Mainly cloudy. A little drizzle. Chance of afternoon bright spells. Wind fresh southwesterly. Mild. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **SE, Cent S, SW England, Channel Is, S Wales:** Dull. Drizzle at times. Wind strong southwesterly, perhaps gales on coasts. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lakes, Isle of Man:** Dull. Drizzle at times. More persistent rain later. Wind strong to gale southwesterly. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** Mainly cloudy. Rain or drizzle at times, turning clearer during the evening. Wind strong southwesterly. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **SW, NW, NE Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland:** Wet and windy for a while, with some heavy rain. Brighter with showers in the afternoon. Wind strong to gale southwesterly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** Colder and windy with some sunshine, but also showers, wintry in the north.

AROUND BRITAIN

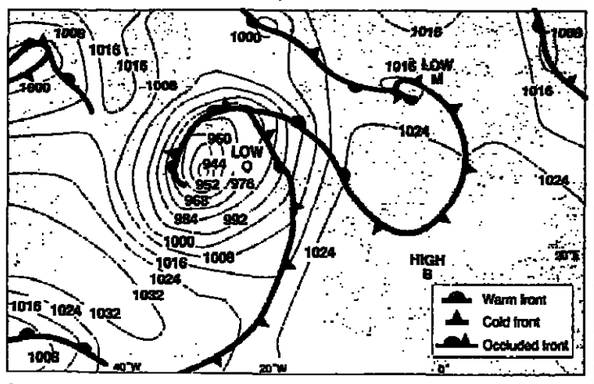
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X	-	8	46	c	Leuchars	-	-	8	46	c
Anglesey	-	0.02	10	50	r	Littlehmptn	5.7	-	9	48	s
Aspatria	-	0.09	8	46	r	Liverpool	-	0.02	6	43	r
Aviemore	X					London	8.4	-	9	48	s
Belfast	-	0.01	8	46	r	Lowestoft	4.4	-	6	43	s
Birmingham	1.4	-	6	43	c	Manchester	-	0.02	6	43	r
Bournem'th	2.3	-	10	50	b	Margate	X	0.01	8	46	s
Bristol	X					Morecambe	-	0.04	6	43	r
Buxton	-	0.01	4	39	du	Newcastle	-	-	5	41	c
Cardiff	0.2	0.03	9	48	r	Newquay	-	0.08	12	54	c
Clacton	4.7	-	7	45	s	Norwich	6.0	-	6	43	s
Cleethorpes	X					Nottingham	0.2	-	5	41	c
Colwyn Bay	1.4	-	10	50	c	Oxford	4.3	-	7	45	s
Cromer	5.4	-	6	43	s	Penzance	-	0.11	12	54	sh
Doncaster	0.2	-	5	41	c	Plymouth	-	0.03	11	52	r
Dunbar	X					Poole	2.1	-	10	50	c
Eastbourne	6.6	-	8	46	s	Prestatyn	X	-	9	48	c
Edinburgh	0.1	-	9	48	c	Sandown	6.9	-	9	48	s
Eskdalemuir	-	0.05	7	45	r	Saunton Snd	-	0.01	10	50	c
Exmouth	0.1	-	11	52	c	Scilly Isles	-	0.09	12	54	c
Falmouth	X	0.08	12	54	sh	Shanklin	5.3	-	9	48	s
Fishguard	0.1	-	9	48	c	Shrewsbury	0.1	-	7	45	c
Folkestone	4.9	-	9	48	s	Skegness	2.2	-	5	41	fg
Glasgow	-	0.02	9	48	r	Southend	3.5	-	8	46	s
Guernsey	X					Southsea	5.6	-	9	48	s
Hastings	6.6	-	9	48	s	Stornoway	-	0.11	9	48	sh
Hayling I.	5.5	-	9	48	s	Swanage	2.3	-	10	50	b
Herne Bay	6.1	-	8	46	s	Teignmouth	0.1	-	11	52	c
Hunstanton	4.7	-	5	41	s	Tenby	-	0.02	11	52	c
Ilfracombe	X					Tiree	0.2	0.17	9	48	r
Isle of Man	-	0.15	11	52	r	Torquay	0.1	-	11	52	c
Jersey	-	-	9	48	c	Tynemouth	-	-	5	41	c
Kinloss	0.1	-	8	46	c	Ventnor	5.0	-	10	50	s
Leeds	-	0.01	7	45	r	Weymouth	0.6	-	11	52	c
Lerwick	0.1	0.08	6	43	r	These are Thursday's figures					

ABROAD

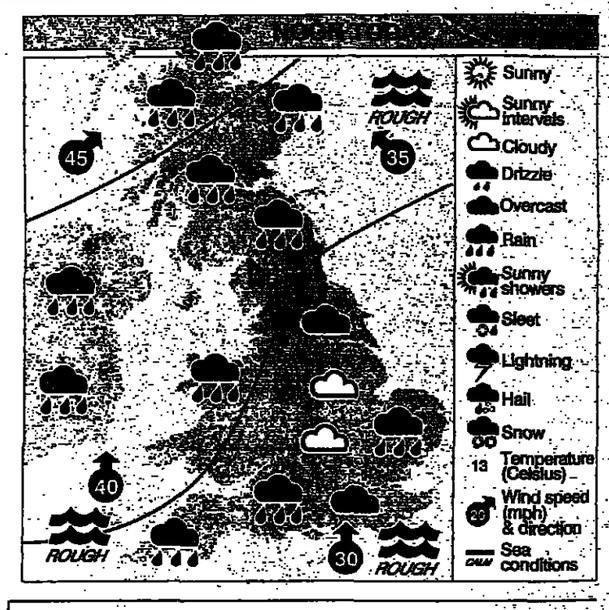
Ajaccio	15	59	s	Corfu	10	50	s	Majorca	15	59	s	Rome	9	48	f
Akrotiri	19	66	f	Dublin	4	39	s	Malaga	17	63	f	Salzburg	-1	30	s
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Dubrovnik	8	46	s	Malta	15	59	c	S F'risco	9	48	c
Algiers	18	64	f	Faro	16	61	s	Melb'rne	22	72	s	Santiago	29	84	s
Amst'dm	9	48	s	Florence	6	43	s	Mexico C	20	68	s	S Paulo	24	75	c
Athens	8	46	f	Frankfurt	1	34	sl	Miami	24	75	f	Seoul	-5	23	s
Bahrain	22	72	c	Funchal	19	66	f	Milan	0	48	f	Singapor	30	86	f
Bangkok	32	90	f	Geneva	3	37	s	Montreal	-6	21	c	Stckholm	-2	28	f
Barcelona	11	52	f	Gibraltar	18	64	s	Moscow	-15	5	s	Strasb'rg	2	36	c
Beirut	20	68	s	Helsinki	-5	23	sn	Munich	2	36	f	Sydney	24	75	f
Belgrade	2	36	s	Hong K	22	72	s	Nairobi	-	--		Tangier	17	63	s
Berlin	0	32	c	Innsbruck	1	34	s	Naples	10	50	f	Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Bermuda	22	72	r	Istanbul	5	41	f	N Delhi	18	64	s	Tenerife	22	72	f
Biarritz	14	57	f	Jeddah	31	88	s	N York	6	43	c	Tokyo	7	45	s
Borde'x	9	48	c	Jo'burg	25	77	s	Nice	12	54	c	Toronto	-3	27	sn
Brussels	4	39	r	Karachi	28	82	s	Oslo	0	32	f	Tunis	18	64	s
Budapst	3	37	s	L Palmas	22	72	f	Paris	5	41	c	Valencia	12	54	f
B Aires	32	90	s	Le Touet	10	50	f	Peking	-3	27	s	Vanc'ver	4	39	r
Cairo	20	68	f	Lisbon	12	54	c	Perth	34	93	s	Venice	6	43	s
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Locarno	7	45	s	Prague	-3	27	f	Vienna	0	32	s
Chicago	1	34	c	L Angels	13	55	s	Reykjavik	-1	30	f	Warsaw	-1	30	c
Ch'church	13	55	c	Luxembg	-1	30	c	Rhodes	12	54	f	Wash'ton	8	46	s
Cologne	2	36	r	Luxor	21	70	s	Rio de J	30	86	f	Wel'ngton	17	63	c
C'phagn	2	36	f	Madrid	4	39	f	Riyadh	25	77	s	Zurich	3	37	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low O will move northeastwards and will deepen. Low M will move northeastwards and will lose its identity. Complex high B will edge eastwards and will decline

NOON TODAY

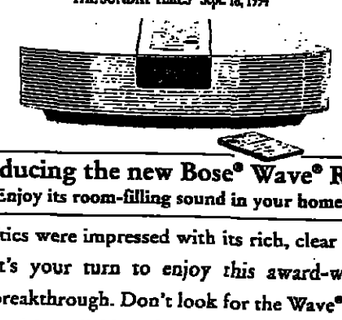


SMALL WONDER MAKES BIG IMPRESSION.

"Big audio dynamite"
THE OBSERVER Sept. 18, 1994

"... a dramatic improvement in sound quality"
THE EUROPEAN Oct. 13, 1994

"The Wave Radio is a great leap forward..."
THE SUNDAY TIMES Sept. 18, 1994



Introducing the new Bose® Wave® Radio.
Enjoy its room-filling sound in your home.

The critics were impressed with its rich, clear sound. Now it's your turn to enjoy this award-winning Bose® breakthrough. Don't look for the Wave® Radio in stores; it's available only directly from Bose. Simply call the free number or send/fax the coupon below to receive a complete information kit or to try out the Wave® Radio in your home for 14 days, satisfaction guaranteed: 0800-614 293.

When calling, please quote the reference number 2021.

Yes, Bose, it sounds good to me.
Please send me more information about the Wave® Radio and the 14-day, no-risk audition.

Name ..... Mr./Mrs./Ms.
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RAINY DAY 21

A year in which saving did not pay



ANNE ASHWORTH 23

How to win from the power play among building societies



SPORT 27-32

Wheel turns full circle for local hero

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — SATURDAY DECEMBER 17 1994

Pensions Bill faces rough ride over costs

BY SARA MCCONNELL AND ANNE ASHWORTH

THE establishment of a pensions watchdog, with power to carry out spot checks on company scheme trustees, and a compensation scheme for members are among a package of measures included in the new Pensions Bill published yesterday.

But the proposed legislation, provoked by the plundering of pension funds by Robert Maxwell, is likely to meet strenuous opposition during its passage through the Commons.

Among contentious matters are the higher-than-expected costs of certain proposals in the 153-clause, 127-page Bill. The costs of making sure that pensions have adequate funds to pay out benefits (the minimum solvency requirement) will be £250 million-£310 million a year. The bill for this will be met by the 10 million members of company pension schemes. The proposals also mean a £300 million drop in tax revenues for the Government. Ministers are likely to counter claims that the proposals are too expensive by stressing the long-term savings to be made from the equalisation of state pension ages and other measures to cut the costs of providing state pensions, also contained in the Bill. Raising the pension age for women to 65 will save only £10 million by the end of the century, but by the year 2050, the reduction in cost to the Exchequer will be £2.6 billion.

However, ministers are likely to be accused of drawing up a Bill that is a money-making charter for lawyers. The exceptionally technical nature of the legislation will mean that schemes and their members will incur large legal bills. The proposals will, for example, make it difficult to alter the terms of any scheme without recourse to lawyers, even if the intention of the change is merely to clarify the rules of the scheme.

The new Occupational Pensions Regulator to be set up under the Act will have a staff of 200 with more extensive powers than expected. The regulator can remove trustees who have failed in their duties, after spot check visits. Although no specific cost is given for this operation in the Bill, a Department of Social Security spokesman gave an estimate of about £10 million.

Despite a general welcome for many of the provisions of the Bill, there was widespread anger that several important measures contained in this summer's White Paper have been watered down, providing scheme members less protection. Unions and actuaries have attacked claims by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, that the minimum solvency requirement would mean schemes "would be able to pay the pensions they have promised" and that a new compensation scheme would "protect members against dishonest removal of assets". Richard Whitelam, a partner at Bacon & Woodrow, the actuary, said: "Peter Lilley is in danger of raising people's expectations too high. He is implying the safety of members' benefits will be guaranteed. The proposals do provide a layer of protection but it would be misleading to call it guaranteed."

Employers now have up to five years, instead of one, to ensure their schemes are 100 per cent solvent. Large schemes also have to pass a less stringent test than small ones, although large schemes do not necessarily offer better protection. Proposals that would have required employers to give members the right to appoint up to one third of trustees have also been weakened after strenuous lobbying by employers. Now employers can opt out if they consult their members.

The proposed compensation scheme is also limited. It will pay out only if the employer goes into liquidation. This means that the Mirror pensioners would have received nothing if the scheme had been operating when their fund was plundered, as the company did not go into receivership. The scheme will pay out only 90 per cent of the lost assets, plus interest. Only losses through fraud or theft will be covered.

The TUC yesterday published a dossier of 47 cases of abuse, malpractice and fraud in company pension schemes. It said such instances were widespread. Employers had fraudulently removed funds from their schemes, lent themselves money which they paid back at interest rates well below those prevailing at the time and merged or wound up schemes without ensuring members got the benefits they were due, the TUC said.



Lilley: claims under fire



BAe's Richard Evans leads Britain's aircraft industry into the new year with the prospect of Euroflag orders

Britain's planemakers rejoice at prospect of £14 billion orders

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S aerospace industry and its workforce will this weekend celebrate the best news they have heard for a decade — the chance to compete for £14 billion of work.

The Government's decision to rejoin the Euroflag Future Large Aircraft project for a new European military transport aircraft, while simultaneously purchasing 25 Hercules C130J planes from Lockheed, offers the industry the best of both worlds.

Provided the Government commits to FLA, Britain's aerospace industry will end up with a substantial interest in both planes that will form the backbone of the western world's military transport fleets for the next 40 years. British Aerospace, headed by Richard Evans, chief executive, is now on course to retain its role as Europe's wingmaker within the successful Airbus Industrie consortium.

Airbus, which has just completed the development of its biggest and most sophisticated planes, the A330 twinjet and four-engined A340, will be able to broaden its range into a new military transport market.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, made Britain's willingness to join Euroflag, abandoned by the British Government (but not by BAe) five years ago, conditional on the project being undertaken on commercial lines by Airbus. He said Britain will consider buying 40 or 50 FLA early in the next century. Completion of the feasibility study next spring will pave the way for a commitment to development at the end of next year.

BAe calculates 7,000 jobs would be secured. The wings would be designed at Bristol, built at Chester, and flown to Toulouse where the planes would almost certainly be assembled.

Under the Airbus system of competitive bidding, British firms could expect to win much more than 20 per cent of the project.

Dowty would expect to make the propellers and undercarriage, GEC-Marconi to supply avionics and Rolls-Royce, the biggest winner, would be in the engine consortium. Rolls has also just agreed to acquire Allison Engine Company of Indiana, which has developed a new turbo-prop engine chosen for the C130J, for $525 million.

Some 36 other UK aerospace companies have already been promised £1 billion of work by Lockheed to offset the balance of trade impact of buying C130J. If forecast worldwide sales expectations are realised, UK firms, which will equip all American-built planes, will reap orders worth £2.3 billion. If FLA proves a big seller in world markets, total sales by Britain's aerospace industry could exceed £14 billion.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3013.6	(+40.2)
Yield	4.27%	
FT-SE A All share	1496.05	(+18.45)
Nikkei	19163.43	(+42.31)
New York:		
Dow Jones	3779.26	(+13.79)*
S&P Composite	456.91	(+1.56)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	95²⁹/₃₂*	(95²⁹/₃₂)
Yield	7.86%*	(7.87%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6¼%	(6⅛%)
Lilfe long gilt future (Dec)	102²⁷/₃₂	(102⅛)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5630*	(1.5630)
London:		
$	1.5631	(1.5625)
DM	2.4570	(2.4536)
FFr	8.4730	(8.4610)
SFr	2.0806	(2.0720)
Yen	156.68	(156.63)
£ Index	80.4	(80.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5717*	(1.5711)
FFr	5.4205*	(5.4145)
SFr	1.3307*	(1.3270)
Yen	100.25*	(100.38)
$ Index	83.4	(83.4)

Tokyo close Yen 100.31

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	$15.90	(n/a)

GOLD

London close	$380.95	($378.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Market surges

The stock market surged yesterday. By the close the FT-SE 100 index had soared 40.2 points to close at 3013.6. Analysts attributed the rise to a wave of futures buying on the belief that the market will rise in the coming three months. **Page 20**

QMH package

QUEENS Moat Houses, the struggling hotels group, has finally unveiled its financial survival package which was originally targeted for late summer. Shareholders, however, will have to wait to see the finer points of detail and are unlikely to see the company's official circular before Wednesday's annual meeting. **Page 19**

Warburg moves fast to limit collapsed merger damage

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SG WARBURG'S senior managers embarked on a damage-limitation exercise yesterday after the dramatic termination of merger talks with Morgan Stanley.

Warburg's directors were left feeling irritated and humiliated after Morgan Stanley said publicly its only reason for talking to Warburg was to gain control of Mercury Asset Management, its 75 per cent-owned fund manager.

Stung by the Morgan explanation for the collapse of the talks, Warburg's financial advisers were saying that Morgan was weak in equity trading in Europe and its comments were just an attempt to cover up these weaknesses.

If MAM had been the only reason for a merger with Warburg, Morgan would have been prepared to pay a preferential rate to buy out MAM's minority shareholders, they said. Warburg directors spent yesterday explaining the rationale of the deal to staff, many of whom felt embarrassed by the collapse of the deal and were critical of management. They also tried to convince staff Warburg could still build a global business alone.

The shares closed up 14p at 713p, still trading at a premium to their price before news of the talks leaked to the market. Analysts said the merger talks with Morgan Stanley had raised the likelihood of a bid or merger offer from another investment bank.

Sources said there was no prospect of future discussions with Morgan Stanley given the acrimony surrounding the collapse of the talks.

It became clear yesterday that MAM had not been included in discussions until after the news of the talks had leaked, though Hugh Stevenson, its chairman, had been informed. As the market continued to predict that other banks would look Warburg over, it was clear that the attitude of MAM would be key to any successful merger.

Mr Stevenson said: "We are very keen to preserve the shareholder value that we have built up over the years." MAM's operational independence from Warburg is seen as crucial to that value.

MAM has taken an increasingly independent stance in its dealings with Warburg. Its keenness to demonstrate its independence had led to several clashes with Warburg.

One observer said MAM had been able to convince clients it was able to operate independently of Warburg and its 75 per cent ownership by the investment bank would not affect the nature of its business with them or its management of their portfolios.

Melvyn Markcus, page 18

Ernie pays better than ever

THE National Lottery did not, as feared, affect Premium Bond sales last month (Patricia Tehan writes). If anything, it might have helped according to sales figures published today, which show a November sales figure of £161 million, an increase of £34 million over October.

Monthly prizewinners selected by Ernie hit a new high of 294,939, with winnings of more than £19 million.

Gross sales of all National Savings schemes last month amounted to £776 million, with net sales of £79 million after repayments. The contribution to government funding in November was £249 million, including accrued interest of £170 million, taking the year's total so far to £2.7 billion. Premium Bonds made the biggest contribution of £130 million last month and Savings Certificates £113 million.

Extended warranty prices set to fall

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE price of extended warranties on electrical goods is set to fall after the Office of Fair Trading called for greater clarity on pricing.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, OFT Director-General, is demanding that retailers display the prices and conditions of warranties in their stores so that consumers can compare costs and shop around more easily.

The move follows a ten-month OFT inquiry into the industry that revealed wide price variations for extended warranties on the same products and aggressive selling practices. Commenting on the findings, Sir Bryan said: "We think this shows the competitive market is not working and consumers are not getting good value for money."

However, he stopped short of imposing regulation on the sale of extended warranties, which are a big source of profits for companies such as Dixons and Kingfisher, owner of Comet. Instead he is looking for retailers to comply voluntarily and help develop an industry-wide code of practice.

Sir Bryan said there were striking variations in the price of the estimated five million warranties — worth about £400 million —, that are sold each year. The OFT found a four-year warranty on the same type of colour television is free at John Lewis but costs £130 at Comet and £150 at Dixons and Currys. This compares with the estimated average repair cost of just £30.

It believes the variations are due to the commissions paid to retailers by insurance companies rather than differences in conditions and levels of service. Retailers' commissions have more than doubled in the past few years, rising from between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of the warranty price to about 40 per cent. On some products the commission is as high as 70 per cent.

Investors Guide

Great British Privatisations

Essential Reading for all Privatisation Investors

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- FUTURE PRIVATISATIONS
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Yorkshire Electricity may close retail chain



Chris Hampson, left, and Malcolm Chatwin, chief executive

BY ERIC REGULY

YORKSHIRE Electricity said it may have to close its money-losing Homepower retail chain unless a buyer is lined up within the next few months. About 1,500 employees would be put out of work if the 120 shops go under.

Tony Coleman, Yorkshire's finance director, said that Homepower lost £6.8 million in the first half of the financial year and shows little sign of turning around in the near future. "One has to question our continuation in that business," he said. "People don't buy white goods on the high street anymore."

The sale of the division, a 50/50 joint venture with East Midlands Electricity, is being pursued. Mr Coleman would not identify the potential buyer, but the chain's management is one logical buyer, analysts said. If the deal collapses, Homepower faces a restructuring to buy it at some time or outright closure. "We'll know what will happen by the end of March," Mr Coleman said.

Homepower is one of the few trouble-spots in the company, which yesterday announced strong interim earnings and offered investors a share-consolidation and special dividend package that analysts said bore the benefits of a share buy-back.

Yorkshire, one of the few regional electricity companies that has not bought its own shares this year, proposed swapping 25 existing shares for 22 new shares and paying a one-off 90p dividend. The dividend, due on January 20 if approved at an extraordinary general meeting, would cost £188 million. Yorkshire will also pay an interim dividend on the consolidated shares of 9p, equivalent to a 14.8 per cent rise on the old shares.

A mixture of cash and debt would be used to fund the special dividend.

The half year to September 30 was in line with City forecasts. Pre-tax profits rose 32 per cent to £97.6 million, and turnover 10 per cent to £647 million. Cost savings on the distribution side and sharp improvements in the supply business are behind the earnings rise.

Separately, Yorkshire, which is chaired by Chris Hampson, announced a price cut of 3.5 per cent starting in April.

Tempus, page 20

MAM's the word at Morgan Stanley

Whither the House of Warburg? was the headline to my scribblings last week and, one way or another, it could be argued that it still stands the test of time. In the event, the hatched in heaven, "uniquely complementary" merger of Morgan Stanley and SG Warburg did not stand the test of time. *C'est la vie.*

It is no secret that Lord Cairns, Warburg's chief executive, and John Mack, president of Morgan Stanley, held a series of *tête-à-têtes* — originally based on *mutual co-operation — for the* best part of two months. In the event, it took but a week for the proposed £5 billion global amalgam to perish before the glare of the footlights. It may be recalled that Morgan Warburg, as might have been, was forced into a premature disclosure of talks due to a leak. This begat an upsurge in Warburg's share price which, in turn, begat the intervention of the Stock Exchange. Premature almost anything that comes to mind is usually perceived as unfortunate; disclosure of merger negotiations being no exception. Discussions behind closed doors are one thing; performing on Broadway and at the Old Vic quite another. It is not merely the audience that Masters of the Universe must play to but also other members of the cast.

Enter Stephen Waters, quite a senior bit player with the role of co-managing director of Morgan Stanley Europe. His blunt quote, in the wake of Thursday's calling *off of nuptials, was:* "MAM was the reason for us to do this deal."

I have no knowledge of the precise delicacies touched upon between Lord Cairns and Mack but you can bet the whole of SG Warburg to a brass farthing that if the flavour of Waters' thinking had come across during the preliminaries, talks would have been terminated long ago.

The message emanating from Morgan Stanley is that talks broke down because Mercury Asset Management, 75 per cent controlled by Warburg, demanded a premium — understood to be in the region of 30 per cent — for its minority shareholders and let it be known that it wished to retain its independence. What, pray, did Morgan Stanley expect? Did it expect MAM, led by Hugh Stevenson, to roll over, complete with £60 billion worth of funds under management? Did it expect Lord Cairns, who sits on MAM's highly autonomous board, to crack some non-existent whip? *Did Morgan Stanley imagine* that Mr Stevenson would hear a distant crack and forget about fiduciary duty and the like?

Or could it be that internal politics at Morgan Stanley also took their toll? After all, the higher the premium required to capture MAM, the greater the cost savings required. With a combined workforce of more than 15,000, Warburg's New York carpets would have run



MELVYN MARCKUS

with blood but, in London and Continental Europe, the bloodletting would, presumably, have been reversed. Warburg has always argued that, despite the envisaged two-thirds/one-third split in favour of Morgan Stanley's shareholders, the deal would be struck on a one-to-one basis. Word has it that Sir David Scholey, Warburg's chairman, and Lord Cairns, had yet to put their detailed perspective on mutual downsizing to Richard Fisher, Morgan Stanley's chairman, and "Mack the Knife", but the Yale and Princeton cast resumably sensed what was coming. Blood in both houses: merger rather than takeover style.

That said, the logic of a deal was clearly worthy of exploration. The popular celluloid image is one of Fisher and Mack Concording into the sunset with Scholey and Lord Cairns dabbing their eyes with expensive linen. Hardly so. Both banks are losers, with neither set to swiftly vault into the global investment banking league dominated by the likes of Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch. The advantage, for Morgan, is that its clout lies in the US, the world's most lucrative market.

Interesting to note the generous thoughts on the creation of Morgan Warburg from rival US investment bank Salomon Brothers. On Tuesday, before the termination of talks, Salomon issued a circular entitled *Global Investment Banking — SG Warburg and the European Banks.* I quote: "The disclosure of discussions between Morgan Stanley and SG Warburg represents, in our opinion, a superb strategic fit. Looked at in terms of the key success elements — origination/trading/distribution/capital/technology — the complementarity of strengths and weaknesses is quite striking, and the whole may be more than the sum of the parts if the cultural integration issues can be overcome." As Thursday's events proved, the cultural divide proved too great, not least (judging from Waters' dismissal of SG Warburg ex MAM) the cultural divide in Europe.

Meanwhile Salomon goes on to *speculate that Warburg* "might combine with other institutions." Salomon stresses that any such deal would have to be "friendly" and adds that the "fit" must be right.

Salomon highlights HSBC as a potential partner and proclaims that "the fit between Wardley's Asian strength and SG Warburg's European skills would be good." According to Salomon, such a combination would make HSBC "a meaningful but not complete player on the world scene. However, HSBC's investment banking strategy is *still in its formative stage, and* the timing may be premature."

With an eye on the Swiss, Salomon declares: "CS Holding would not gain much from adding SG Warburg, whose skills and those of CS First Boston are duplicative. Swiss Bank Corporation might be the most logical partner but an acquisition would represent a huge capital commitment."

I suspect (as Warburg's share *price indicates) that the bank will* not embark on new merger talks in the near future. The Morgan Warburg venture was an opportunity worth taking. End of story, for some time yet.

This offer notice dated 17 December 1994, is issued in compliance with the requirements of The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited (the "London Stock Exchange"). Application has been made for the New Ordinary Shares of RJB Mining PLC (the "Company") to be admitted to the Official List of the London Stock Exchange. Listing Particulars relating to the Company in accordance with the listing rules under section 142 of the Financial Services Act 1986 (the "Listing Particulars") have been published which alone contain full details of the Company, the principal coal mining activities of British Coal in England and the Placing and Offer for Sale of New Ordinary Shares (the "Offer").

In applying for New Ordinary Shares, you will be treated as applying solely on the basis of the information contained in the Listing Particulars and on the Terms and Conditions of the Offer for Sale set out therein. Before deciding to apply for the New Ordinary Shares, you are advised to read the Listing Particulars and, if you are in any doubt about the action you should take, to consult an independent authorised financial adviser.

In respect of the Offer and the other matters referred to in the Listing Particulars, Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited ("BZW") and de Zoete & Bevan Limited are acting for the Company and no-one else and will not be responsible to anyone other than the Company for providing the protections afforded to customers of BZW or de Zoete & Bevan Limited for providing advice in relation to either the Offer or any of the other matters referred to in the Listing Particulars.

The New Ordinary Shares have not been and will not be registered under the laws of the United States and, subject to certain exceptions, may not be offered or sold within the United States. This document does not constitute an offer or invitation to sell or issue, or any solicitation of any offer to purchase or subscribe for, any New Ordinary Shares in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation is unlawful. Any person outside the UK wishing to subscribe for or purchase New Ordinary Shares should satisfy himself that, in doing so, he complies with the laws of any relevant territory and that he obtains any requisite governmental or other consents and observes any other applicable formalities.

RJB MINING PLC

(Incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985, with registered number 2649340)

Acquisition of the principal coal mining activities of British Coal Corporation in England

and

Placing and Offer for Sale by Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited of 125,000,000 New Ordinary Shares of 1p each at 320p per New Ordinary Share all of which are being placed with not less than 6,250,000 New Ordinary Shares being offered for sale and payable in full on application

Availability of Listing Particulars and Public Application Forms

Copies of the Listing Particulars and the Public Application Form may be obtained during usual office hours until 5.00 pm on 23 December 1994 from the companies listed below. Copies of the Listing Particulars will also be available during normal office hours at the Company Announcement Office, Capel Court entrance, Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 1HP, for at least two business days commencing from 9 December 1994. However, all Public Application Forms must be sent by post or delivered by hand to Bank of Scotland, New Issues, Apex House, 9 Haddington Place, Edinburgh EH7 4AL or delivered by hand only to Bank of Scotland, 38 Threadneedle Street, London EC2 in accordance with the instructions on the Application Form.

RJB Mining PLC
Harworth Park
Blyth Road
Harworth
South Yorkshire DN11 8DB

Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited
Ebbgate House
2 Swan Lane
London EC4R 3TS

Bank of Scotland
Edinburgh
New Issues
Apex House
9 Haddington Place
Edinburgh EH7 4AL

London
Bank of Scotland
38 Threadneedle Street
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Birmingham
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124 Colmore Row
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110 St Vincent Street
Glasgow

Nottingham
Bank of Scotland
15 Queen Street
Nottingham

Manchester
Bank of Scotland
19/21 Spring Gardens
Manchester

GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

The following instructions should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Application Form. *References to boxes are to the numbered boxes on the Application Form.*

BOX 1
1. Box 1 should include your full name(s) and address.
Please insert your full name(s) and address in BLOCK CAPITALS.
Applications may be made by persons aged 18 or over (16 or over in Jersey) or over. However, a parent, grandparent, godparent or guardian of a person under 18 (or 16 if resident in Jersey) may apply for the benefit of that minor. To apply for the benefit of a minor, you should put your own name in full in Box 1 followed by the child's initials and "A/C". If you apply for the benefit of a minor, you will be regarded for all purposes as the applicant but you will not thereby be precluded from making a single application for your own benefit.

BOX 2
Insert in Box 2 (in figures) the number of New Ordinary Shares for which you are applying.
Application must be for a minimum of 150 New Ordinary Shares and thereafter should be in one of the following amounts or multiples:

Number of New Ordinary Shares for which you are applying	Your payment at 320p per New Ordinary Share	Number of New Ordinary Shares for which you are applying	Your payment at 320p per New Ordinary Share
150	£480	1,000	£3,200
200	£640	1,500	£4,800
300	£960	2,000	£6,400
400	£1,280	2,500	£8,000
500	£1,600	3,000	£9,600
600	£1,920	3,500	£11,200
700	£2,240	4,000	£12,800
800	£2,560	4,500	£14,400
900	£2,880	5,000	£16,000

Above 5,000 New Ordinary Shares, applications must be in the following denominations:	
Applications for	in multiples of
5,000 to 10,000 New Ordinary Shares	1,000
10,000 to 100,000 New Ordinary Shares	5,000
Over 100,000 New Ordinary Shares	10,000

Applications for any other number or multiple of New Ordinary Shares may be rejected.

BOX 3
Using the table above, insert in Box 3 (in figures) the exact amount of your payment.

BOX 4
Sign and date the Application Form in Box 4.
If you are applying for the benefit of someone under the age of 18 (under 20 in Jersey), you, rather than that person, must sign the Application Form.
The Application Form may be signed by someone else on your behalf who is duly authorised to do so. In this case, the original of the relevant power of attorney (or a copy certified by a solicitor) must be enclosed with the form as signed by an official of a UK clearing bank in which case the signatory must state the capacity in which he signs.
Applications made by corporations, whether on their own behalf or on behalf of other persons, must be signed by a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity must be stated.

BOX 5
Attach to the completed Application Form a single cheque or banker's draft for the full amount payable to "Bank of Scotland—A/C RJB Share Offer" and crossed "A/C Payee". In each case the cheque or banker's draft must be drawn in sterling and must bear a UK or Channel Islands sort code number in the top right-hand corner.
Except in cases in which the identity of the applicant(s) has not been verified as referred to below, any moneys to be returned will be returned by cheque crossed "Account Payee" in favour of the applicant. If you are applying on an Employee Application Form and another Application Form, you must affix a separate cheque or banker's draft to each completed form.
If the value of your application exceeds £10,000 (or is one of a series of linked applications, the aggregate value of which exceeds that amount), the verification of identity requirement of the Money Laundering Regulations 1993 will apply and verification of the identity of the applicant(s) will be required. A failure to provide the necessary evidence of identity may result in the rejection of your application or in delay in the despatch of a share certificate or moneys receivable. In order to avoid this, you should ideally make payment by means of a cheque drawn on the personal account in Box 1 or Box 6. If this is not practicable and you use a cheque, building society cheque or banker's draft drawn on a third party, you should:
(i) write the name and address of the person named in Box 1 on the back of the cheque, building society cheque or banker's draft and record the date of birth of that person in Box 1;
(ii) if a building society cheque or banker's draft is used, ask the building society or bank to endorse on the cheque the name and account number of the person whose building society or bank account is being debited; and
(iii) if you are making the application as agent for one or more persons, indicate in Box 1 whether you are a UK or EC regulated person or institution (eg a bank or brokers) and specify your status. If you are not a UK or EC regulated person or institution you should contact Bank of Scotland and seek guidance.
If you deliver your application by hand and do not use the specially provided delivery box, you should ensure that you have with you evidence of identity bearing your photograph and showing your address (eg your passport).

BOX 6
You may apply jointly with up to three other persons aged 18 or over (20 or over in Jersey). As joint applicants each individual should complete and sign in Box 6. If you make a joint application, you will not be able to transfer the New Ordinary Shares into a PEP. If any individual is forming on behalf of any joint applicant, the power of attorney (or (a) duly certified copy) must be enclosed for inspection.

DELIVERY OF APPLICATION FORM
You must send the completed Application Form in strict accordance with the details on the Application Form. If you are unable to warrant in the terms of any of paragraph (i) or (ii) you must delete the relevant warranty.

PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

Before completing this Public Application Form please read carefully the "Guide to completing the Application Form" set out opposite.
Offer for Sale by BZW of not less than 6,250,000 New Ordinary Shares in RJB Mining PLC ("New Ordinary Shares") at 320p per New Ordinary Share, payable in full on application.
To BZW

BOX 1 PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Forename(s) (in full)
Mr, Mrs, Miss or Title
Surname ____ Designation (if any) ____ A/C ____
Address (in full)
Postcode

BOX 2
I/We offer to acquire ____ New Ordinary Shares

BOX 3
I We attach a cheque or banker's draft to "Bank of Scotland – A/C RJB Share Offer" for £
(320p multiplied by the number of New Ordinary Shares inserted in Box 2)

BOX 4
Dated 1994
Signature

BOX 5
☐ Affix here your cheque or banker's draft for the amount in Box 3 made payable to "Bank of Scotland – A/C RJB Share Offer" and crossed "A/C Payee"

BOX 6 JOINT APPLICANTS
The first applicant (as shown in Box 1) should complete the boxes above. Other persons applying to hold the New Ordinary Shares jointly with the first applicant, should insert their names in BLOCK CAPITALS and sign in the boxes below.

Title	Forename(s) in full	Surname	Signature

Delivery of Public Application Form
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Courtaulds Textiles goes for growth

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

COURTAULDS Textiles delivered an upbeat trading statement yesterday, saying it had made "significant progress" during the year and predicted further growth in the coming 12 months.

The statement was welcomed in the City and the group's share price jumped 11p to 430p.

Courtaulds said that sales during the autumn, the most important selling period of the year, had been satisfactory. Despite increases in raw materials prices and continuing sluggish demand in many of its markets, margins had been maintained.

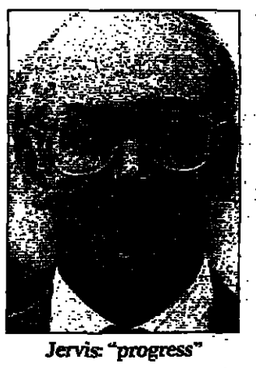
Noel Jervis, chief executive, expects profits for the year to December 31 to be in line with City expectations. Analysts are forecasting pre-tax profits of between £45 million and £50 million, up from £38 million in the previous period.

Most areas of the business had performed well, but the warm weather across Europe had hit some sectors of the clothing market while the weak housing market in the UK depressed demand for soft furnishings.

The statement provided a *positive note on which to end a* difficult year. In September, the group reported a 36 per cent slide in pre-tax profits to £10.1 million from £13.7 million.

One area that is still causing difficulties is the hosiery and sock business acquired from Hartstone Group earlier this year. The business made a loss of £7.4 million in the first half, and yesterday the group said sales and margins had been held back in recent months by continuing weakness in the hosiery markets in France and the UK.

Tempus, page 20



Jervis: "progress"

Terrorism cover may cost less

BY SARAH BAGNALL

THE cost for UK mainland businesses of insuring against terrorism may fall by 40 per cent next year.

In response to a parliamentary question, Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, said that as long as terrorism claims did not exceed £50 million in 1995, companies will only have to pay 60 per cent of their annual insurance premiums.

Under the new arrangement, businesses will pay premiums in two tranches. The first instalment of 60 per cent is payable at the start of the policy period, and the remaining 40 per cent at the end of the year. However, the second instalment will be waived if claims against Pool Re, the company that provides insurance cover, do not exceed £50 million. Mr Heseltine said: "Arrangements for 1996 will be determined in the light of experience."

Alan Fleming, director of the Association of Insurance and Risk Managers in Industry and Commerce, said: "This is good news. It will, if there is no significant terrorism incident next year, save a lot of companies a lot of money."

Tate & Lyle makes move in Mexico

Tate & Lyle, the sugar to sweeteners group, is paying £35.8 million to expand in the fast-growing Mexican market by buying 49 per cent of Grupo Industrial Azucarero de Occidente, owner of three cane sugar mills, via a subscription for new Saenz Group shares. The remaining 51 per cent will stay controlled by the Saenz family.

Saenz Group, Mexico's fifth-largest sugar group, made £5.6 million pre-tax profit in the 10 months to October 31, on £89.1 million turnover. Net assets are £69.3 million.

Chiltern payout

Chiltern Radio, the radio stations group that was the subject of an unsuccessful takeover bid by CLT, the European media group, is paying a restored final dividend of 1p (nil) after continuing recovery. Chiltern made a £558,000 pre-tax profit for the year to September 30 (£246,000 loss).

Swedish buy

AP Fonden, Sweden's largest pension fund group, is paying £76.5 million for a long lease on 167,000 sq ft Milton Gate, Moor Lane, EC2, on 8.85 per cent yield. Land Securities sold it.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.12	1.95
Austria Sch	18.25	16.75
Belgium Fr	53.51	49.21
Canada $	2.272	2.112
Cyprus Cypf	0.769	0.734
Denmark Kr	10.22	9.42
Finland Mkk	8.21	7.51
France Fr	8.94	8.24
Germany Dm	2.61	2.40
Greece Dr	400.00	375.00
Hong Kong $	12.73	11.73
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99
Italy Lira	2645.00	2490.00
Japan Yen	171.00	155.00
Malta	0.622	0.567
Netherlds Gld	2.897	2.667
Norway Kr	11.28	10.48
Portugal Esc	262.50	244.00
S Africa Rd		5.35
Spain Pta	213.00	198.00
Sweden Kr	12.36	11.56
Switzerland Fr	2.20	2.02
Turkey Lira	refer	56526.0
USA $	1.659	1.529

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HUGO BOSS: **Peter Littmann and Werner Baldessarini**

The fashion team that mixed and matched

partners in power

Carpet maker and fashion designer seems an unlikely combination, but **Susan Gilchrist** finds them well suited

The head of Hugo Boss is one of life's risk-takers. He had never worked in the fashion industry before he took over as chief executive in March last year, yet within five months he took the bold decision to split the label into three new brands. Suddenly, the brand name Hugo Boss was gone. In its place were Hugo, Boss and Baldessarini.

It was the most radical change in the German company's 71-year history and it had been instigated by a complete novice. Fashion industry luvvies recoiled in horror, saying it would never work. But just over a year later, they have been proved wrong. In the six months to June, the first selling season of the new ranges, company profits increased 17 per cent.

It signalled a critical turnround in Hugo Boss's fortunes. The brand had flourished in the 1980s as every self-respecting yuppie rushed to ensure they had a Hugo Boss power suit in their wardrobe. But the dawn of the altruistic 1990s, and the demise of conspicuous consumption, left the brand searching for a new identity. To help establish that identity, Marzotto, the Italian textile group that took control of the company in 1991, decided to look for a new leader. Enterprisingly, they went outside the fashion industry and recruited Peter Littmann, 46, a man who had spent much of his career in, of all things, the carpet industry.

Dr Littmann admits he faced hostility from many fashion luminaries, who were aghast that a lowly carpet manufacturer could enter their glamorous world. Here was a man who was more interested in finance than fabric. Moreover, he hardly looked the part of the fashion guru. Conservative in his dress, he is clearly not interested in acquiring the gift of the garb.

But one person who supported his arrival was Werner Baldessarini, 49, Hugo Boss's vice president and design director. He saw the value in recruiting an outsider.

Dr Littmann admits the support of Baldessarini, a Hugo Boss veteran of 20 years, was vital. "I knew I was going to have to change things, and as design director he was the most important person in the company for me. I needed him. I was therefore glad to find he was very young in mind and very open to new ideas. If he had not been like that, I wouldn't have been able to change anything."

He says Baldessarini is the antithesis of the egotistical fashion business stereotype. "He is not a typical designer. It's not a one man show. He has a team and does not try to dominate everyone. But he also has a good nose for what is going on." It was with Baldessarini's help that he thrashed out the strategy for splitting the brands in the months before he formally started at the company. "I came up with the idea but I didn't know how to execute it," says Dr Littmann. "And that's where he came in. He made it happen." Nevertheless, he admits Baldessarini was less than convinced at the outset. "He was pessimistic and a little sceptical. But then he is always a little sceptical. I am the one who is always pushing, and he is the one who holds back and asks questions. That is the way it works with us."

> "If we cared too much about the market we would become less and less fashionable"

The concept of segmenting a brand was not new. What makes the Hugo Boss strategy different, according to Dr Littmann, is that the point of differentiation is not price but attitude. "We didn't want Hugo to be the cheap Boss. We wanted it to be defined by a different attitude." As a result, Hugo is aimed at the more fashion-conscious customer while Boss appeals to the conventional man. Baldessarini is the most upmarket of the brands, using luxury fabrics and old-fashioned handtailoring.

Dr Littmann says Baldessarini was reluctant to let his name be used. "It took a lot to convince him. But I thought it would work. It sounded good and he was well known within the trade. Eventually he agreed, but it took time because he is a very modest person." He confesses that the Italian ring to the name was a big attraction as the brand has to compete head on with the Armanis and Versaces of the fashion firmament. Dr Littmann started work on March 1 last year and on March 2 he called a meeting of the top 80 managers in the company to present the new strategy. "People within the company liked the concept but said it would need at least a year to do. I said 'We have no time, we have to be ready by the summer.' And they did it." The trade were suspicious at first, largely because they did not understand how the brands were differentiated. But a year later they have been won round — not least because of the financial results. "Hugo Boss is now the hero," says Dr Littmann simply. So would he go back to manufacturing carpets? "No, never. Coming here has been even better than I was expecting."

Werner Baldessarini says he immediately warmed to Dr Littmann when they first met. "Although he did not come from the industry, I could see he was a man who was open to new ideas. He was not just a numbers man and that was important to me. Also, it was clear he would let me do what I wanted," Baldessarini adds with a slow smile. He openly admits to a complete aversion to all things financial and has a deep-seated hatred of five-year business plans. "Most German companies are always thinking about numbers. I am just not like that. Here, we care about the market, but not too much. If we cared too much we would become more and more classic and less and less fashionable."

He says all the ranges are completely changed at the end of each season no matter how successful any individual line has been — a strategy that would set most businessmen's nerves jangling. "It is a big risk," says Baldessarini serenely, "but it is the only way to keep ahead of everybody else. Peter understands this."

He believes his experience, coupled with Dr Littmann's perspective as an outsider, works well. "I have been in the industry for 20 years and so when he says 'Why don't we do this,' I can say 'We tried that ten years ago and it was a big flop'." But he readily admits that his longevity also means he doesn't always ask the obvious and simple questions that might occur to someone on the outside looking in.

The latest burning question concerns the group's international expansion. Dr Littmann is anxious to transform Hugo Boss from a German company into a truly international player. Baldessarini is a keen advocate of this approach.

It comes as no surprise that both men warm to the international theme as neither is a native German. Baldessarini was born in Austria while Dr Littmann comes from Czechoslovakia and only left at the age of 21 when the Soviet tanks came in. He admits to feeling somewhat rootless, being neither wholly German nor wholly Czech. "I am somewhere in between," he says.

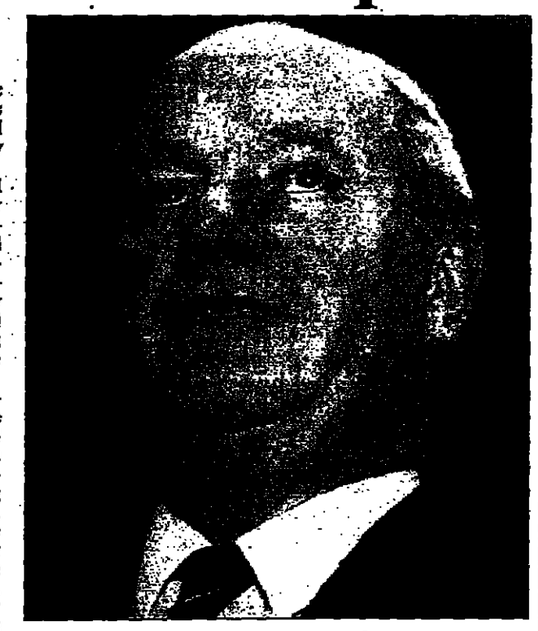
But whatever their respective origins, Baldessarini says he is enjoying his work more than ever before. The decision to create three new brands has given him a new lease of life. "They are all very different — Hugo is young, Boss is powerful and Baldessarini is sophisticated. I think the contrast is very sexy." He gets particular pleasure from the Baldessarini brand. It is the one he would let me wear himself. Unsurprisingly, Dr Littmann wears Boss.


MICHAEL POWELL

Measuring up: Werner Baldessarini, right, says he warmed to Peter Littmann immediately

Queens Moat finally unveils survival plan

By George Sivell
Assistant Business Editor


Stanley Metcalfe, the chairman of Queens Moat

QUEENS Moat Houses, the struggling hotels group, has finally announced its survival package, which was originally targeted for late summer.

Shareholders, however, will have to wait to see the finer points of detail and are unlikely to see the company's official circular by Wednesday's annual meeting, which had originally been rescheduled to try to accommodate the survival package. A special meeting will be called to discuss the survival package.

Lenders have agreed to convert almost £200 million of the group's burgeoning £1,224 million debt into equity in a move which will leave ordinary shareholders controlling 23.9 per cent of the company, down from 81.3 per cent. The influence of holders of 7.5 per cent convertible preference shares will barely change, from 16.9 per cent to 14.6 per cent, but after restructuring the lenders will control 60 per cent of the company.

Around £630 million of the existing debt will be restructured into term debt maturing in 2000, 2006 and 2008, although total new debt after the restructuring will remain at £937.9 million. Queens Moat said yesterday: "Following the restructuring, it is unlikely that the company will be able to pay dividends to shareholders in the foreseeable future."

On current trading, the company said: "In the absence of unforeseen circumstances, we expect to report a solid improvement in the overall operating profit for the 1994 financial year."

Barclays, the lead bank of Queens Moat lenders, and NatWest, the joint co-ordinator, said they were pleased with progress although they conceded the negotiations had been by necessity extensive and time consuming. On the package, Stanley Metcalfe, chairman of QMH, said: "The alternative is stark. If the financial restructuring is not approved by shareholders, the severity of the group's financial position is such that the board would certainly have to conclude that there is no reasonable prospect of avoiding the insolvent liquidation of the company."

Former directors charged

By Paul Wilkinson

THE former chairman of a specialist chemical firm that won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1990 has been arrested after an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office.

Richard Lines, once head of MTM, based on Teesside, and Thomas Baxter, 43, MTM's former finance director, are accused of false accounting, conspiracy to commit false accounting and making false or misleading statements.

Mr Lines, 58, of Newton under Roseberry, North Yorkshire, and Mr Baxter, of Dollar, Central Scotland, have been bailed to appear before magistrates at Northallerton, North Yorkshire, on February 8.

Simon Catterall, Mr Lines's solicitor, said: "He is utterly shocked by the allegations. They are just not true and will be vigourously contested."

MTM became a significant international firm under Mr Lines, with plants in britain and the US. It employs about 1,000 people and three years ago had turnover in excess of £100 million.

A spokesman at the company's new headquarters in Leeds said that the charges did not relate to the company itself, or to any current director or employee.

The SFO said that the charges arise from the disclosure of an unexpected loss of £20.5 million in the company's accounts for the year to December 31, 1991.

PSBR on target despite small rise

By Colin Narbrough

AN UNEXPECTED jump in government borrowing last month mainly reflected a one-off fluctuation in local authority debt repayment and has not altered the trend improvement in the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR).

Provisional Treasury figures issued yesterday showed a PSBR of £3.54 billion for November, instead of the £2 billion the City was expecting. It compared with borrowing of £2.9 billion in November last year. In October, there was an unexpected repayment of £551 million.

The November number brought the cumulative borrowing for the first eight months of the current fiscal year to £22.7 billion, against £29.3 billion at the same stage last year.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, forecast in his Budget last month that the PSBR for fiscal 1994-95 would drop to £34.4 billion from £45.4 billion last year. He has declared his intention of removing the budget deficit by the decade's end.

The local authorities made a debt repayment of £410 million last month, compared with a £1.29 billion repayment in the same month last year, which arose from a high inflow of capital receipts before the expiry of a temporary spending rules. The year-on-year difference largely explained the surprise rise in the PSBR last month.

Kevin Darlington, economist at Hoare Govett, the broker, said the November rise gave no cause for concern and Mr Clarke was "comfortably on course" to meet his PSBR target for the year.

Oceonics' whiproun

By Martin Barrow

DIRECTORS of Oceonics, the oilfield services company, are taking voluntary pay cuts to afford a new executive.

David Arnold is joining the board as commercial director, and is to become finance director in March, succeeding Mike Hutchison, whose imminent departure was yesterday announced "with regret".

The scale of the pay cuts was not disclosed, but the largest is expected to be borne by Anthony Henfrey, the chairman, who in the last financial year was the highest-paid director, with a £91,000 salary.

In the half year to September 30, Oceonics had losses of £1.69 million before tax, against profits of £222,000 previously, on turnover of £8.19 million (£13.24 million). Losses per share grew to 1.2p, from 0.2p. There is again no interim dividend.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"The collapse of the £5bn merger talks between S G Warburg and Morgan Stanley has left Britain's premier merchant bank in chaos. The engagement may only have lasted a week, but observers believe it may have caused irreparable damage to Warburg..."

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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Jarve alleged to have gained from computer contract

Oslo bourse in talks with Logica

By Colin Narbrough

LOGICA, the British computer consultancy and software company, held urgent talks with the bourse in Oslo yesterday over a £4.5 million contract after allegations linked it to financial irregularities by Erik Jarve, the former bourse director found dead on Tuesday.

The board of the Norwegian bourse, which on Monday suddenly dismissed Mr Jarve, a veteran of 25 years on the small stock exchange, said that he had mixed his private finances and bourse finances and alleged that he had had indirect benefit from negotiations on the Logica contract.

Mr Jarve, 50, had, according to the board, persuaded Logica to raise the price of its bid for the trading systems contract by £25,000, allegedly to fund the salary of a member of his family who was taken on by Logica.

A terse statement by Logica confirmed that a meeting between representatives of the company and the Oslo bourse had taken place yesterday and said that both sides were working on a statement to "clarify the status of the contract" for the next generation trading system. It said that the statement would probably be issued after a meeting of the bourse council on Monday.

The council is made up of representatives of the Norwegian central bank, the finance ministry and other government departments, besides brokers and shareholders.

Logica, a leading international player in its field, also has the London and Copenhagen stock exchanges among its clients. A company spokesman refused to elaborate on yesterday's statement, but an initial press release in response to Mr Jarve's death, said that Mr Jarve was not part of the committee of exchange management involved in negotiating the trading systems contract awarded in September.

It explained that Logica, based in London, wrote the functional specifications for the system in 1992-93, but lost out on the contract to build the system. The company later went to the help of the bourse at short notice, when the Norwegians failed to reach a satisfactory deal with their chosen software supplier. Logica then negotiated and was awarded the contract.

Elisabeth Wille, the bourse chairman, said the board would review the contract with Logica following the discovery of alleged irregularities by Mr Jarve.

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Christmas bonus for jaded market-makers

JUST when investors had decided that the pre-Christmas rush was unlikely to materialise, share prices staged a 60-point turnround to end the week on a high note.

Better late than never was the view of brokers as they braced themselves for a rip-roaring end to the year. Dealers say prices are set to rise sharply next week bringing a touch of belated Christmas cheer to fund managers' portfolios.

The FT-SE 100 index clawed back an early fall of more than 20 points to close at the top of the day with a rise of 40.2 to 3,013.6, a gain of 36.3 on the week. The March series of the financial future gave a clear signal that the market has the scope to put in a late run after closing at 3,045.0, a premium of 27 points on the cash market.

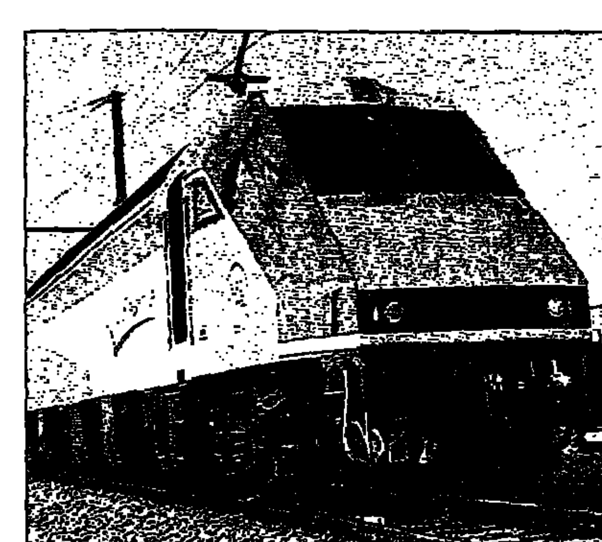
Brokers said there had been no change to fundamentals but the expiry of the December series of futures and options had signalled the start of the pre-Christmas bonanza.

Martin Lupton, head of market-making at Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, said: "The expiry of the options and futures took away pressure on the market. Brokers have been running level positions and the first sign of buying had the effect of squeezing prices higher".

By the close of business, almost 700 million shares had changed hands with the final figure swollen by at least one program trade. Much of the action was focused among the leaders with **British Gas** firming 2½p to 307¼ as 21 million shares were traded. At least one parcel of 4 million shares was recorded forming part of a block trade.

There was also heavy turnover in **BP** after an up-beat meeting with brokers this week. A total of 18 million shares were traded as the price advanced 7p to 421½p.

SG Warburg's merger with Morgan Stanley may be dead in the water but the City is not ruling out the possibility of other mergers evolving in the New Year. Warburg has said it is not seeking other partners and intends to go it alone but the speculators take the view that the company is vulnerable and could attract predators. As a result, the price rallied yesterday by 14p to 713p, with **Mercury Asset Management**, its 75 per cent subsidiary, climbing 46p to



Eurotunnel's Le Shuttle has won its operating licence

724p. It was MAM's demands to Morgan Stanley that resulted in the plug being pulled on the merger.

The electricity distributors continued to make news. This time, it was the turn of **Yorkshire Electric**, which is planning to spend £186 million paying shareholders a special dividend of 90p a share. This is in addition to the 9p interim dividend accompanying yesterday's figures, a rise of 15 per cent. Pre-tax profits climbed 32 per cent to £97.6 million. Yorkshire says it has not ruled out the possibility of buying back 10 per cent of its shares and, in the meantime, has proposed a consolidation of its shares on the basis of 22-for-25. A cut in tariffs of 3.5 per cent to all its 2 million customers has also been proposed. Chairman Chris Hampson said Yorkshire plans to demerge its entire holding in the National Grid before its stock market flotation next year. Yorkshire ended 69p lower at 678p.

The rest of the Recs continued to enjoy speculative support after this week's disclosure that Trafalgar House would like to bid for **Northern Electric**, 1p better at 985p. There were useful gains for **East Midland**, 12p to 810p, **Eastern**, 4p to 770p, **London**, 6p to 744p, **Norweb**, 8p to 799p, **Seeboard**, 7p to 470p, **South Wales**, 13p to 847p, and **Southern**, 6p to 798p.

Speculative buying provided another fillip to the water sector as investors continued to focus on the fact that the Government's golden share in the water companies expires at the end of the month. There is already talk of a series of aggressive bids and mergers. Among those to stand out were **Anglian**, 11p to 501p, **North West**, 13p to 518p, **Northumbrian**, 15p to 723p, **Severn Trent**, 8½p to 509½p, **South West**, 16p to 505p, **Thames**, 16½p to 474½p, **Wessex**, 10p to 283p, and **Welsh**, 5p to 625p.

Courtaulds Textiles climbed 11p to 430p after giving a positive run-down on current trading. Full-year profits should match expectations after satisfactory sales in the key autumn selling period. Margins had been maintained despite the rising cost of raw materials and weak demand in many markets. But sales of outerwear had been hit by warm weather.

Eurotunnel got the thumbs-up from the City after receiving the operating licence for its Le Shuttle car service. The company says it aims to carry between 6,000 and 7,000 cars a day by the end of 1995. Patrick Ponsolle, chairman, said Eurotunnel had captured 25 per cent of the Dover/Calais freight market despite charging more than ferry operators. The shares responded with a 15p rise to 273p.

Land Securities, the property developer, stood out with a rise of 23p to 587p after selling the long leasehold interest in Milton Gate, Moor Lane, in the City for £76.5 million. The buyer is AP Fonden, the Swedish pension fund.

MTM, the troubled chemicals group, slipped 2p to 80p on the news that two former directors were being sued by the Serious Fraud Office. The company said the charges did not relate to itself or any current director or employee.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Gilts took their lead from a firmer German bund but turned easier after publication of the public sector borrowing requirement which showed a bigger than expected surge to £3.5 billion during November. The March series of the Long Gilt finished a tick lower at £102⁵/₃₂ in thin trading of just 14,000 contracts. In the long end of the cash market Treasury 9 per cent 2012 eased £³/₃₂ to £105⁷/₃₂, while at the shorter end, Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 finished a tick off at £103½.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Shares were higher at midday, driven by program-trading and activity related to last night's triple-witching expirations. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 13.79 at 3,779.26.

GKN was a flat market, ending 5p lower at 597p on talk that its Westland helicopter subsidiary may have lost out on several lucrative contracts. Word is that the Dutch air force has chosen McDonnell Douglas in preference to Westland and that the Ministry of Defence may take similar action.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Northern Electric	881p	+104p	Trafalgar wants to bid
SG Warburg	783p	-70p	Merger talks collapse
Mercury Asset Man	711p	+13p	Blocks Warburg merger
Hornby	177p	-42p	Profits warning
Portals	833p	+87p	Awaiting De La Rue bid
Eurocopy	84p	+5p	Bumper profits rise
Cadbury Schweppes	418p	-18p	Profit downgradings
Yorkshire Electric	687p	-12p	Special dividend payment
BP	421½p	+19½p	Talking to brokers

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 3779.26 (+13.79)
S&P Composite 456.91 (+1.56)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 19163.43 (+42.31)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 8166.39 (-93.17)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 408.38 (+0.69)

Sydney:
AO 1897.0 (+2.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2070.06 (+17.47)

Singapore:
Straits 2169.72 (-10.51)

Brussels:
General 7205.97 (-0.91)

Paris:
CAC-40 1924.16 (-6.94)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 645.30 (+2.50)

London:

FT 30	2314.3 (+24.6)
FT 100	3013.6 (+40.2)
FT-SE Mid 250	3437.1 (+23.2)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1329.65 (+2.91)
FT A All-Share	1496.05 (+16.45)
FT Non Financials	1614.50 (+16.87)
FT Gold Mines	224.4 (+1.6)
FT Fixed Interest	109.72 (+0.12)
FT Govt Secs	91.97 (+0.03)
Bargains	20881
SEAQ Volume	693.6m
USM (Datastrm)	149.43 (-1.05)
US$	1.5627 (+0.0014)
German Mark	2.4555 (+0.0011)
Exchange Index	80.4 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2850
£:SDR	1.0750
RPI	145.3 Nov (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Ashbourne (150)	148	-3
Asset Mngmnt Inv (100)	95	...
BSkyB	257	+½
Clydeport	167	+2
Euclidian (100)	102	...
Eurovein (141)	140	...
Fidelity Spec V Uts	468	...
Finsb Sml Cos C (100)	98	...
First Russ Front ($10)	620	...
Fleming Nat Res (100)	92	...
For & Col Emrg C (100)	104½	+½
H Gov 1000 Inv (100)	101	...
Hydro Intl (80)	83	...
INVESCO Korea C	96	...
Innovative Techs (120)	123	...
JJB Sports (215)	228	...
Kiln Capital (100)	100	...
Leg & Gen Rec (100)	99	-1
Mathsn Lloyds Inv (100)	87	...
Murray Emrg Ec (100)	92	...
RAP Group	138	...
RM (175)	208	-1
Residential Prop	105	...
SeaPerfect (120)	129	...
Telewest Comms (182)	181½	+2
Wellington Under (100)	102	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cowie n/p (190)	16	...
Division Grp n/p (100)	27	+4
MY n/p (53)	1½	...
OMI n/p (37)	2	...
Saltire n/p (12)	¼	...
Usborne n/p (25)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Abbey National 418p (+11p)
Bass 527p (+10p)
Berisford Intl 228p (+18p)

FALLS:
Tadpole Tech 376p (-6p)
Hall Eng 165p (-5p)

Closing Prices Page 25

TEMPUS

Building walls of debt

AFTER its rebuff from left-leaning Swedes who last month vetoed a proposed investment in Stockholm's electricity company, Yorkshire Electricity had a good excuse to hand back cash to shareholders. Like all the Recs, Yorkshire has more money than projects to spend it on, but this week the pressure to restructure the balance sheet became more acute.

Bids from companies seeking access to the cash flow of a Rec are now a concern and handing over £189 million to shareholders makes Yorkshire look like slightly less of a honeypot. The balance sheet will be transformed from net cash to gearing of about 30 per cent and Yorkshire has said it would be happy with gearing of 50 per cent or more, assuming interest cover is high. By effectively handing back some of the assets to investors and consolidating the shares, Yorkshire effected a share buyback in all but name, a sensible move if the company can be more cheaply financed with debt than with equity.

Gearing up the company implies a strategy based on growth rather than managing a static utility. In this department, Yorkshire has made more progress than some, doubling profits in the supply business by seizing market share in the newly freed-up 100kw-plus market. Other new business ventures will be slow to start, like generation and telecoms, or will suffer, like gas distribution, from margin pressure with too many suppliers. The short-term outlook for shareholders still looks good with a distribution of National Grid shares in the offing. Even after that loss, Yorkshire's balance sheet should be able to cope with another special dividend.

Courtaulds Textiles

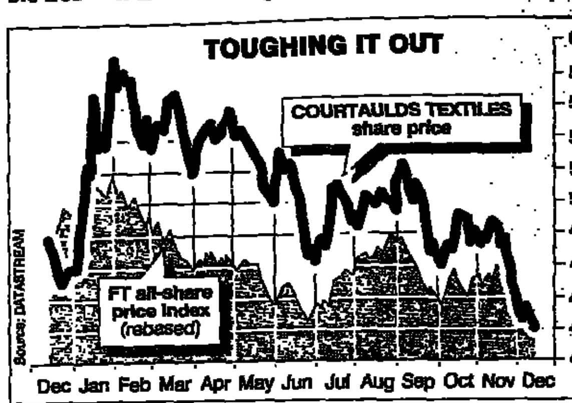
COURTAULDS Textiles has had a tough year. Weak demand in nearly all of its markets, coupled with the costs of reorganisation and sorting out acquisitions that have proved trickier than planned, have conspired to depress profits and make for some unfortunate headlines.

However, those who gave the group the benefit of the doubt a few months ago have now been proved right. Despite a 36 per cent fall in pre-tax profits in the first half, the group is on course to produce a full-year result in line with analysts' expectations. That suggests increased profits of 15 per cent to 20 per cent — highly respectable in any market.

Although the bottom line will be boosted by acquisitions, the rise will still have been achieved with little help from the markets in which it operates. Courtaulds is highly geared to any upturn, and should demand start to pick up then investors are likely to see a step change in underlying profit growth.

The group's acquisitions have not always been trouble-free — it is still having a few problems in the hosiery businesses bought from Hartstone earlier this year — but it has now developed a better spread of businesses.

The shares are on a prospective p/e of just under 14 times. Given the prospects for growth, which should be well above the market average, the rating looks undemanding.



Privatisation

EVEN in its final phase, UK privatisation is pioneering more innovations in equity marketing. Institutional sales of the final 40 per cent state stake in National Power and PowerGen will be handled by a single, much smaller distribution syndicate.

Instead of a hierarchy that mimics underwriting, with the top name lording it over a list of sub-underwriters with strictly limited interests, selling rights will be more equal, giving a greater incentive to the "lesser" participants. Apart from their book-building role, joint global co-ordinators BZW and Kleinwort Benson Securities will be equal with four other international managers on the syndicate. Outside the UK, these six will operate equally with five North American managers and another six for the rest of the world, each bringing something different to the party. Managers will compete for first right to visit institutions they know best. The Treasury will arbitrate if need be.

This scrupulous equality may placate National Power and PowerGen, which are anxious to differentiate themselves and hate the idea of the accompanying joint retail offer to private investors. Since neither was prepared to cede first place, they must wait until February to be separated.

Swiss Re/Credit Suisse

SWISS Reinsurance and Credit Suisse yesterday demonstrated how you develop a global financial services business without upsetting everyone and then being forced into a humiliating retreat.

Continental empire-builders eschew the bravura of bare-fisted takeovers for the safe and discreet route of joint ventures. Swiss Re is taking a 20 per cent interest in Credit Suisse Financial Products, the bank's derivatives operation jointly owned with CSFB, the investment bank. In exchange, Credit Suisse is raising its stake in the insurer by over £600 million.

There is more to the share deal than just back-scratching: the parties want to build up a strategic alliance in financial and reinsurance products, launching a $200 million fund to develop reinsurers in Asia and Eastern Europe. More important are plans to develop derivative products for reinsurers. The idea is to increase liquidity in the reinsurance market using derivatives which could be traded over the counter or via an exchange and CSFP reckons the potential market could be more than $10 billion.

New financial products are expensive and difficult to develop and market. Joint ventures are the most sensible way to spread the risk and pool knowledge and resources, a lesson Morgan Stanley and SG Warburg has yet to learn.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	1000-969	Mar	1005-1000
Mar	970-969	May	1012-1008
May	964-963	Jul	1020-1018
Jul	971-970	Sep	1032-1030
Sep	982-981		
Dec	994-985		Volume: 4195

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	2670-2665	Sep	2585-2575
Mar	2640-2635	Nov	2585-2570
May	2625-2620	Jan	2530-2510
Jul	2600-2595		Volume: 4603

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	368.5-67.0
Spot: 414.0		Dec	360.5-58.1
Mar	416.0-15.0	Mar	359.5-56.1
May	409.5-08.0	May	358.5-54.1
Aug	398.5-96.5		Volume: 1048

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 15

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	64.91	115.61	123.05
(+/-)	+2.15	-6.50	-0.76
Eng/Wales:	64.77	115.87	121.88
(+/-)	+1.91	-6.78	-0.52
(%)	+27.0	-4.0	-5.0
Scotland:	97.39	114.39	128.06
(+/-)	+23.24	-4.93	+6.24
(%)	+22.0	+7.0	n/c

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	15.60	(n/c)
Brent 15 day (Feb)	15.90	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Mar)	15.90	(n/a)
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	16.95	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	17.05	(n/a)

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	B:	O:
Premium Gas .15	158 (-4)	160 (-4)
Gasoil EEC	139 (-1)	141 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Jan	143 (+1)	145 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Feb	145 (n/c)	147 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	98 (+1)	100 (n/c)
Naphtha	165 (-4)	167 (-4)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	141.75-42.00	Apr	146.75-47.00
Feb	144.25-44.50	May	147.50-47.75
Mar	146.25-46.50		Vol: 14987

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	15.85-15.88	May	15.94 BID
Mar	15.91 BID	Jun	16.00-16.06
Apr	15.93-15.95		Vol: 36594

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	106.65	Jan	103.75
Mar	107.80	Mar	105.75
May	109.90	May	107.50
Jul	111.65	Sep	96.25
Sep	96.65	Nov	97.50
Volume: 269		Volume: 10	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	unq
Apr	280.0	278.8
May	unq	299.5
		Volume: 60

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)
Jan 97.75-98.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 95	1595	1850	1895
Feb 95	1845	1830	1845
Apr 95	1775	1740	1765
Jul 95	1560	1545	1557
Vol: 139 lots		Open Interest: 3498	

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LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	3087.0-3088.0	3002.0-3003.0	155225
Lead ($/tonne)	646.50-647.00	663.00-663.50	190675
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1113.0-1115.0	1141.0-1142.0	663575
Tin ($/tonne)	5945.0-5950.0	6045.0-6050.0	23755
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1902.5-1903.5	1934.5-1935.0	1458300
Nickel ($/tonne)	8600.0-8610.0	8730.0-8760.0	112500

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom.	550	15	33	41½	11	18	26
(*551½)	600	1½	12½	20	49	50½	55½
Argyll	240	16	23½	28	3½	6	11½
(*253)	260	4½	13	18½	13	15	22
ASDA	60	5	7½	9	1	2½	3½
(*64)	70	0½	3	4½	7	8	9
Boots	460	31	44	49½	3½	9	15½
(*485½)	500	7	21	27½	20½	26½	35
Br Airways	360	12½	26	33	10½	18	25½
(*360)	390	2½	13½	20	31½	36	43
BP	420	13	23	31½	10½	17½	24
(*421)	460	1½	8	16	39½	43	48
Br Steel	140	17	21½	25	0½	3	5
(*156)	160	3½	10	13½	7½	11	13½
C & W	360	13½	27	34½	10½	19	25½
(*361½)	390	4	14½	21½	30½	36½	43
CU	493	38½	47	—	2	15½	—
(*527)	543	9	20½	—	22	42½	—
ICI	700	53	66½	75½	3½	20	25½
(*740)	750	19	35½	47	20	43½	49
Kingfishr	390	30½	43½	47	3	11	18½
(*414)	420	12	25½	30½	14½	24	33
Land Sec	550	39½	53	59	1	6½	13½
(*586½)	600	8½	23½	29	18	24½	35
M & S	360	24½	35	40½	2	6	11
(*390½)	390	7	17½	23½	15	19	25
Nat West	500	18½	31½	41½	12½	31	35½
(*503½)	550	3	12½	22	48	64½	67½
Sainsbury	390	14	28	35	8	16	24½
(*394)	420	3	14½	21	27½	34	41½
Shell	650	45	56	61	2	11½	13½
(*690)	700	11	24½	32½	18½	34½	36½
Smkl Bch	420	36½	46½	54	2½	10½	16
(*452½)	460	11	23	31½	16	27	33½
Storehse	200	15	20½	25	2½	6	8½
(*215)	220	3½	9½	14½	11	15	18½
Trafalgar	70	6	9½	11½	2½	5	6
(*74)	80	1½	4	7	8½	10½	11½
Unilever	1100	50½	73½	87	8½	25½	38
(*1138)	1150	20	45	59½	26½	50	61½
Zeneca	850	35	53½	65½	13	32	40½
(*872½)	900	11	29	42	39½	60	68
Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	390	16½	27½	34	16	21½	26½
(*395½)	420	5½	15½	21½	37	40½	44½
Ladbroke	140	19½	21½	25½	1	6	7
(*155½)	160	7½	10½	15½	8½	15	16½
Utd Bisc	300	29	36	39½	2	9½	12½
(*324½)	330	11½	18	23½	12½	24½	27½

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	480	24½	36½	—	3	11	—
(*469)	475	8½	21½	—	13	21	—
Thames W	460	23½	38½	46½	6	13½	24
(*474)	500	6½	19	26½	28½	35	46½
Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	420	26	35½	38	9½	22	30
(*432)	460	8	17	21	32½	46½	54
BTR	280	13½	17	23½	9½	18	21
(*280½)	300	5	9	15½	22	31	33
Br Aero	409	37	48½	—	10	21½	—
(*431)	448	16½	30	—	29	42	—
Br Telecm	360	18	28½	35½	8½	11	18
(*376)	390	5½	14½	21	25	27½	34
Cadbury	390	23	29½	34½	5½	16½	19
(*400)	420	9½	15½	21	22½	34	36
Guinness	420	28½	36	41½	4	12½	16
(*439½)	460	8½	15	22½	23½	34	37
GEC	260	16	23	27	4	6½	11½
(*272)	280	6	12½	16½	14	16½	22
Hanson	220	15	18½	21½	3½	7	10½
(*230)	240	5½	8½	12	13	17½	21
LASMO	140	8	13	16½	6	9	10
(*141½)	160	1½	5½	8	19½	21½	22
Lucas	180	22½	27	31	2	6	8½
(*198½)	200	9½	15	20	9	14½	17
Pilkngtn	180	8½	13	16½	4½	7½	11
(*160½)	190	2	5½	8	19½	20½	23½
Prudential	300	22	26	31	6½	15	17
(*313)	330	8½	11½	17½	21½	32	34
Redland	420	36½	43	48½	7	19	24
(*445½)	460	14	30	28½	24	41	46
R-Royce	160	16	20	23½	2½	6½	8½
(*172½)	180	5	9½	13½	11½	16½	18½
Tesco	220	20	26	27½	2½	7½	10
(*239½)	240	7	13½	16½	10	17	19½
Vodafone	200	10	16	20	8	11½	14½
(*200)	217	3½	—	—	19	—	—
Williams	300	19	27	30	4½	13	14
(*313½)	330	5	12	16	20½	29½	30½

FT-SE INDEX (*3013)

	2900	2950	3000	3050	3100	3150
Calls						
Dec	70½	20½				
Jan	161½	125½	93	63	41	24
Feb	186½	151½	121½	91½	68½	47½
Mar	200½	166	137	108	87	66½
Jun	235½	—	176½	—	127	—
Puts						
Dec			39½	79½	120½	170½
Jan	22½	37	55	78½	110	155½
Feb	43½	59	80	101	128	158½
Mar	58½	75	96½	118	147	177
Jun	88½	—	127½	—	178½	—

Series		Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
Abby Nat	390	28	37½	42½	0	10	15½
(*418)	420	3½	17½	26	6	24	30
Amstrad	125	10½	14½	18	0½	4½	7
(*134)	150	0½	3½	7½	16	19½	21½
Barclays	600	9½	33½	45	3½	28	36
(*604½)	650	0	13½	24½	45½	60½	66½
Blue Circ	280	12½	24½	29½	1	7	15½
(*271½)	290	1½	14	19½	10	16½	26
Br Gas	300	9	19½	26½	1	8	16
(*307½)	330	0	6½	12½	22½	25½	33½
Dixons	160	17½	21½	27	0	4	6½
(*177½)	180	2	10	16	5	12	15½
Forte	220	14½	22	26	0	5	10
(*234)	240	1½	10½	15	7	13½	20
Hillsdown	160	15½	20	22½	0	1½	5
(*175½)	180	1	7½	11	5½	9	17
Lonrho	140	9	14	15	1	5½	8
(*149½)	160	0	4½	9½	12	16½	19
Sears	100	6½	10½	12½	0½	3	5
(*106)	110	1	5½	7	5	8	10½
Thrn EMI	1000	15½	44½	67½	7½	29	36
(*1013½)	1050	0	22½	42½	48½	59	63½
Tomkins	200	13½	19	25½	0	5½	9
(*213½)	220	1	9	15½	7½	15½	18½
TSB	220	16½	23	26	0	7	9½
(*236½)	240	2	11	15½	5½	16½	19½
Wellcome	650	34	59½	74½	1	22	34
(*682½)	700	4	33	49½	21	47	59
Series		Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo	600	37	52	68	7	25½	33
(*626)	650	11½	27½	44	31½	52½	59
HSBC	650	57	75½	84½	6	24½	30
(*699½)	700	24	46	57	21½	48	54½
Reuter	460	16½	29½	39½	12	23	29½
(*462½)	500	4	13½	22½	39½	47½	53
Series		Feb	May	Jul	Feb	May	Jul
Royal Ins	280	15	22	27	11½	19½	21½
(*280½)	300	7	14	19	23½	32	33½
Series		Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Fisons	110	5	13½	16½	1	6½	10
(*114)	120	1	8½	12	6½	12	15
Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Eastern Gp	750	40½	62	73	25	40	51½
(*766½)	800	19	39½	50	54	67	79½
Series		Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Natl Pwr	460	12½	31½	44½	1½	13½	23½
(*470½)	500	0	13	26	29½	35½	45
Scot Pwr	330	8½	21½	32½	2	16½	23
(*337)	360	0	9	20	23	33½	40

December 16, 1994 Tot: 45480 Call: 20939 Put: 24541 FT-SE Call: 9925 Put: 10747
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Dec 94	2965.0	2975.0	2954.0	2970.5	8758
Previous open interest: n/a	Mar 95	2995.0	3048.0	2978.0	3043.0	19093
FT-SE 250	Dec 94	3410.0	3410.0	3410.0	3429.5	160
Previous open interest: n/a	Mar 95	3441.0	3441.0	3430.0	3445.0	161
Three Month Sterling	Dec 94	93.55	93.58	93.55	93.56	6658
Previous open interest: n/a	Mar 95	92.63	92.65	92.60	92.60	10535
	Jun 95	92.00	92.01	91.95	91.96	2294
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 94	93.69	93.69	93.69	93.68	100
Previous open interest: n/a	Mar 95				92.80	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 94	94.54	94.55	94.51	94.53	10351
Previous open interest: n/a	Mar 95	94.39	94.45	94.38	94.41	25428
Long Gilt	Dec 94	103-04	103-04	102-26	102-27	782
Previous open interest: n/a	Mar 95	102-10	102-18	102-00	102-05	21987
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 95	108.42	108.42	108.33	108.34	1286
	Jun 95				107.73	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 95	89.78	90.09	89.76	89.91	52720
Previous open interest: n/a	Jun 95	89.45	89.45	89.45	89.31	32
Three month ECU	Dec 94	93.69	93.71	93.67	93.67	1099
Previous open interest: n/a	Mar 95	93.38	93.44	93.38	93.39	1468
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 94	95.77	95.77	95.67	95.71	769
Previous open interest: n/a	Mar 95	95.41	95.46	95.41	95.42	3049
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 95	99.70	100.04	99.37	99.41	18072
Previous open interest: n/a	Jun 95				98.71	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 6¾
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5¾ Low 4 Week fixed: 5½
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6 ; 3 mth 6⅛ ; Sell: 2 mth 5⅞ ; 3 mth: 6.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅞-5¾	6-5⅞	6¼-6⅛	6¾-6⅝	
Sterling Money Rates:	5⅞-5¾	6⅛-6	6½-6¼	6⅞-6¾	7⅝-7½
Interbank:	5⅞-5¾	6⅛-6	6½-6¼	6⅞-6¾	7⅝-7½

Overnight: open 5¾, close 4.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5⅞	n/a	6¼	6¾	7¼
Sterling CDs:	5⅞-5¾	6⅛-6	6½-6⅜	6⅞-6¾	7⅝-7½
Dollar CDs:	6.02	n/a	6.26	6.76	7.48
Building Society CDs:	5⅞-5¾	6⅛-6	6½-6⅜	6⅞-6¾	7⅝-7½

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £1,415m allotted: £350m: Bids: £98.545% received: 92%: Last week: £98.525% received: 40%: Avge rate: £5.8351% last wk £5.9056%: Next week: £350m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅝-5½	6⅛-5⅞	6¼-6⅛	6¾-6⅝	5¼-4¼
Deutschemark:	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-5	5⅜-5¼	5⅝-5½	5¼-4¼
French Franc:	5½-5¼	5⅝-5½	6⅛-5⅞	6½-6⅜	5¼-4¼
Swiss Franc:	3½-3¼	3⅝-3½	4⅛-4	4⅜-4¼	4¼-3¼
Yen:	2¼-2	2⅜-2¼	2½-2¼	2½-2¼	2¼-1½

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $379.50-379.90 Close: $380.70-381.20 High: $381.10-381.60
Low: $378.90-379.40 AM: $379.70 PM: $380.35
Krugerrand: $383.00-385.00 (£245.00-247.00)
Platinum: $413.25 (£264.30) Silver: $4.83 (£3.085) Palladium: $152.75 (£97.70)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 16	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.7463-2.7520	2.7486-2.7520	¼pr-par	⅝-½pr
Brussels	50.44-50.59	50.48-50.59	4-1pr	13-8pr
Copenhagen	9.6130-9.6450	9.6300-9.6450	⅛-¼pr	½pr-par
Dublin	1.0150-1.0185	1.0155-1.0182	2pr-par	par-4ds
Frankfurt	2.4532-2.4587	2.4554-2.4587	¼pr-par	⅝-½pr
Lisbon	251.43-252.48	251.84-252.48	89-96ds	260-284ds
Madrid	205.86-206.45	206.13-206.43	34-41ds	94-114ds
Milan	2546.60-2560.60	2557.30-2560.60	5-7ds	15-18ds
Montreal	2.1637-2.1710	2.1679-2.1710	0.02-0.05ds	0.06-0.16ds
New York	1.5618-1.5636	1.5626-1.5636	par-0.01ds	0.03pr-par
Oslo	10.7010-10.7300	10.7140-10.7300	¼pr-¼ds	½pr-¼ds
Paris	8.4540-8.4800	8.4660-8.4800	¼-⅛pr	1-½pr
Stockholm	11.7360-11.8030	11.7780-11.8030	1½-2ds	4½-5½ds
Tokyo	156.39-156.87	156.55-156.82	¼-⅛pr	1½-1¼pr
Vienna	17.27-17.31	17.28-17.31	1½-1¼pr	5½-4½pr
Zurich	2.0755-2.0821	2.0791-2.0821	¾-½pr	1½-1¼pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2891-1.2899
Austria	11.06-11.07
Belgium (Com)	32.31-32.35
Canada	1.3870-1.3875
Denmark	6.1595-6.1625
France	5.4135-5.4165
Germany	1.5704-1.5714
Hong Kong	7.7375-7.7385
Ireland	1.5378-1.5388
Italy	1635.6-1636.6
Japan	100.17-100.27
Malaysia	2.5638-2.5648
Netherlands	1.7585-1.7590
Norway	6.8530-6.8560
Portugal	161.26-161.36
Singapore	1.4650-1.4660
Spain	131.91-132.01
Sweden	7.5349-7.5424
Switzerland	1.3288-1.3293

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5593-1.5620
Australia dollar	2.0142-2.0161
Bahrain dinar	0.583-0.595
Brazil real*	1.3250-1.3290
Cyprus pound	0.74-0.75
Finland markka	7.5325-7.6485
Greece drachma	375.75-382.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.0922-12.0976
India rupee	48.56-49.52
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4635-0.4735
Malaysia ringgit	4.0067-4.0096
Mexico peso	5.33-5.43
New Zealand dollar	2.4441-2.4476
Pakistan rupee	47.50 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7975-5.9235
Singapore dollar	2.2891-2.2921
S Africa rand (fin)	6.2972-6.3483
S Africa rand (com)	5.5280-5.6300
U A E dirham	5.6775-5.8015

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,300	Legal & Gn	1,600
ASDA Gp	8,300	Lloyds Bk	5,100
Abbey Natl	4,900	MEPC	2,400
Alld Dom	3,200	Marks Spr	7,700
Argyll Gp	5,000	NatWst Bk	5,500
Arjo Wiggn	6,000	Nat Power	3,400
AB Foods	1,100	Nth Wst W	1,100
BAA	3,700	P & O	2,600
BAT Inds	8,900	Pearson	3,300
BOC	978	PowerGen	2,300
BP	20,000	Prudential	6,100
BTR	12,000	RMC	673
BT	15,000	RTZ	5,700
Bk of Scot	2,200	Rank Org	4,100
Barclays	7,000	Reckitt Col	1,300
Bass	2,600	Redland	2,000
Blue Circle	2,600	Reed Intl	2,100
Boots	2,500	Rentokil	1,900
Bowater	1,500	Reuters	4,500
Brit Aero	1,400	Rolls Royce	2,000
Brit Airwys	2,900	Ryl Ins	1,800
Brit Gas	21,000	Ryl Bk Scot	2,300
Brit Steel	7,900	Sainsbury	4,900
Burmah Cstl	636	Schroders	153
Cable Wire	8,000	Scot & New	1,600
Cadbury	3,900	Scot Power	2,500
Caradon	2,700	Sears	5,900
Carlton Cms	1,500	Svrn Trent	1,500
Cm Union	1,600	Shell Trans	11,000
Courtaulds	2	Siebe	1,800
De La Rue	487	SmKl Bch	6,800
Eastern Elec	1,400	Smith Nph	3,700
Enterpr Oil	2,000	Sthern Elec	915
Forte	2,400	Std Chartd	3,200
GKN	1,600	Sun Allnce	3,900
GRE	4,100	TI Gp	1,000
GUS	2,600	TSB	5,000
Gen Acc	2,600	Tesco	4,500
Gen Elec	6,600	Thames W	2,500
Glaxo	13,000	Thrn EMI	1,700
Granada	2,100	Tomkins	5,300
Grand Met	5,500	Unilever	2,900
Guinness	5,500	Utd Bisc	1,700
HSBC	3,700	Vodafone	8,900
Hanson	14,000	Warburg	4,300
ICI	2,200	Wellcome	3,700
Inchcape	2,700	Whitbread	1,100
Kingfisher	4,600	Wlms Hld	2,600
Ladbroke	3,100	Wolseley	625
Land Secs	1,900	Zeneca	2,100

WALL STREET

	Dec 16 midday	Dec 15 close
AMP Inc	72¼	72¼
AMR Corp	50½	50¾
AT & T	51¼	51
Abbott Labs	32	31½
Advanced Micro	23¾	23¾
Aetna Life	45¾	45¾
Ahmanson (HF)	16½	16½
Air Prod & Chem	45¼	45¼
Albertson's	29¼	29¼
Alcan Alumnm	25¼	24¾
Alco Standard	59¾	59¾
Allied Signal	34	33
Alum Co of Am	81¾	81¾
Amax Gold Inc	5¾	6¼
Amerada Hess	44¾	44½
Amer Brands	35	35
Amer El Power	32¼	32½
Amer Express	29¾	29¾
Amer Genl Corp	28¼	28
Amer Home Pr	64¾	65
Amer Intl	97¼	96½
Amer Stores	25¼	25½
Ameritech	41½	41¾
Amoco	61½	61¾
Anheuser-Busch	50¾	50¾
Apple Computer	37¼	37¼
Archer Daniels	19¾	19¾
Armco	6¾	6¾
Armstrng Wrld	39¾	38¾
Asarco	27¼	27¼
Ashland Oil	33	33
Atl Richfield	102¾	102¾
Auto Data Pro	56¾	56½
Avery Dennison	34¼	34½
Avon Products	61½	61¼
Baker Hughes	18¼	18
Baltim Gas & El	22¼	22
Banc One	26½	26¼
BankAmerica	40¼	40¼
Bank of NY	28¾	28½
Bankers Tr NY	57¼	57¼
Barnett Banks	39¾	40
Bausch & Lomb	31½	32½
Baxter Intl	27	26¾
Bectn Dickinsn	49¼	49½
Bell Atlantic	51½	51½
BellSouth	54	53½
Black & Decker	22¼	22½
Block (H&R)	38	37½
Boeing	47¼	47¼
Boise Cascade	25½	25¾
Borden Inc	12¾	13
Bristol Myrs Sq	57¾	57¾
Browning Ferris	27¾	28¼
Brunswick	17¾	17
Burlington Nthn	51½	51
CBS	53¾	53½
CNA Financial	66½	66½
CPC Intl	54½	55
CSX	67¾	67
Campbell Soup	43	42¼
Can Pacific	15	14¼
Cptl Cities ABC	79¼	79¾
Carolina Pwr	27¾	27¾
Caterpillar	53½	53¾
Central & SW	23¼	23¼
Champion Intl	37¼	36¾
Chase Manhat	34¾	34½
Chemical Bk	37¼	37¼
Chevron Corp	44¾	43¾
Chrysler	47	46¼
Chubb Corp	75¼	76
Cigna Corp	66	65¾
Citicorp	42¼	42¼
Clorox	58¾	57¼
Coastal Corp	25¼	25¼
Coca Cola	51½	51
Colgate-Palmolive	63	63
Columbia Gas	24	23¾
Compaq Comp	38¼	39½
Comp Ass Intl	45¾	44¼
Conagra	32¾	32¼
Cons Edison	26¾	26¼
Cons Nat Gas	35¾	34¼
Cons Rail	50½	50½
Cooper Inds	33¼	34¼
Corning Inc	29½	29¼
Crown Cork	37¾	38¼
Dana Corp	22½	22¼
Dayton Hudson	79¼	78¼
Deere	64	63¼
Delta Air Lines	47¼	47¼
Deluxe Corp	27	26¾
Detroit Edison	26½	26¼
Digital Equip	34¼	34¼
Dillard Dept St	28	27¼
Disney (Walt)	44½	43¼
Dominion Res	36¼	36½
Donnelley (RR)	28½	29
Dover Corp	52½	52½
Dow Chemical	68	67¼
Dow Jones	30¾	30¾
Dresser	18¾	19
Duke Power	38½	39½
Dun & Bradstreet	53½	53
Du Pont	55½	54¼
Eastman Kodak	45¼	45¾
Eaton Corp	46¼	46
Emerson Elec	61¼	61½
Engelhard Corp	21¾	21¾

	Dec 16 midday	Dec 15 close
Enron Corp	29	28½
Entergy	22¼	22¾
Ethyl Corp	10	10
Exxon	61	60¾
FMC Corp	58¼	58
FPL Group	34¾	35
Federal Express	57¾	57½
Fed Nat Mtge	72¾	72¾
First Chicago	47¾	47¾
First Interstate	69¼	69¾
First Union Rlty	6¾	6¼
Fleet Finl Grp	32¼	32¾
Fluor Corp	44	43¼
Ford Motor	26¾	26¾
GTE Corp	30¾	30¼
Gannett	50½	50½
Gap Inc Del	30¾	31½
Gen Dynamics	43¾	42¾
Gen Electric	49½	49
Gen Mills	56½	57¾
Gen Motors	37¾	37¾
Gen Reinsurance	123¾	123¾
Gen Signal	31¾	31¼
Genuine Parts	35½	35¾
Georgia Pac	72¼	72½
Gillette	73¼	73½
Glaxo ADR	19½	19¾
Goodrich (BF)	44	43¾
Goodyear Tire	34	33¾
Grace (W&R)	37½	37
Gt Atl Pac Tea	17¾	18
Great Wstn Fin	16¾	16¾
Halliburton	34¾	34¼
Harcourt General	34¾	33¾
Heinz (HJ)	36¾	37
Hercules	112¼	110½
Hershey Foods	48¼	47¼
Hewlett Packard	96¼	95¼
Hilton Hotels	69	68¾
Home Depot	46½	46¼
Homestake Mng	17	17
Honeywell	29¾	30
Household Intl	37	36¼
Houston Inds	35¼	35¼
Humana	21¾	22
ITT Corp	81¾	80¼
Illinois Tool	42	41½
Illinova	20¾	21
INCO	28¾	28½
Ingersoll Rand	30¾	30
Inland Steel	36¼	35½
Intel Corp	59¼	58¾
IBM	70½	70¾
Intl Flav & Fr	46¼	46
Intl Paper	74¾	74¾
James River Va	20¾	20½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	54¼	54¼
Kellogg	59¾	59¾
Kerr-McGee	45¼	45¼
Kimberly-Clark	50½	50½
Kmart	14	14
Knight-Ridder	51	49½
Lilly (Eli)	61¾	61½
Limited Inc	19¼	18¼
LIN Brdcstng	142	142½
Lincoln Nat	35¼	35¾
Litton	36¼	36¼
Liz Claiborne	21¼	21¼
Lockheed	68¼	67¼
Louisiana Pac	28¼	27¾
MCI Comm	17¼	17¾
Marriott Intl	28¾	28
Marsh & McLnn	77½	77½
Masco Corp	22¾	22½
May Dept St	34¼	34¼
Maytag Corp	14½	14¾
McDonalds	29	28¾
McDonnell D	142	141¼
McGraw Hill	68¾	68½
Mead Corp	49¾	48½
Medtronic	53½	54½
Mellon Bk	32¼	32¼
Melville Corp	29¼	29¼
Merck Inc	37¼	37¼
Merrill Lynch	34¾	35½
Minnesota Mine	51½	51¼
Mobil Corp	83¾	83½
Monsanto	72¾	72¼
Morgan (JP)	57¾	57¾
Motorola Inc	56½	56¾
Natl Medical	13¼	13¾
Natl Semi	18¾	18¾
Natl Service Ind	25¾	25¾
Navistar Intl	13¾	13¾
NBD Bancorp	28¼	28¼
NY Times A	22½	22¾
Newmont Mng	35	35¼
Niag Mohawk	14¼	14
Nike B	67¾	68
NL Industries	11¼	10½
Noram Energy	5¼	5¾
Nordstrom	46¼	46½
Norfolk Sthrn	60¾	61
Nthn State Pwr	46	45¼
Norwest Corp	23½	23¾
Nynex Corp	38	38¼
Occidental Pet	19¾	19¼
Ohio Edison	19	18¾
Oracle Systems	39¾	39¾
Oryx Energy Co	11¾	11¾

	Dec 16 midday	Dec 15 close
Owens Corning	30	29¾
PNC Financial	22	21¾
PPG Industries	37¼	37¼
Paccar Inc	45	45¾
Pacificorp	18¾	18¾
Pac Enterprises	21	20¾
Pac Gas & Elect	24¾	24¾
Pac Telesis	29¾	29¾
Pall Corp	19	18¾
Panhandle East	20¾	20¾
Parker Hannifin	46¾	45¾
Peco Energy	24¾	24
Penney (JC)	41¾	41¾
Pennzoil	46¾	46
Pepsico	36¾	35¾
Pfizer	76¾	76¾
Phelps Dodge	58¾	58¾
Philip Morris	59¾	59¾
Phillips Pet	33¼	33¼
Pitney Bowes	31¾	31¾
Polaroid	31¾	31¾
PriceCostco	13¾	13¾
Procter & Gmbl	61¾	61¾
Providian	32¾	31¾
Pub Serv E & G	28¾	28¾
Quaker Oats	31¾	31¾
Ralston Purina	45	44¾
Raychem Corp	34	33¾
Raytheon	63¾	63¾
Reebok Intl	37¾	37¾
Reynolds Metals	47¾	48¾
Roadway Srvcs	52¾	51¾
Rockwell Intl	35¾	35¾
Rohm & Haas	58¾	58¾
Royal Dutch	106¾	106
Rubbermaid	28¾	28¼
Safeco Corp	51¾	50¾
St Paul's Cos	44¾	44¾
Salomon Inc	37¾	37¾
Santa Fe Pac	16¾	15¾
Sara Lee Corp	25¾	25¾
Sercorp	15	14¾
Schering Plough	73¾	74
Schlumberger	51	50¾
Scott Paper	69¾	69¾
Seagram	29¾	29
Sears Roebuck	45	45
Shell Trans	64¾	63¾
Sherwin Wlms	31¾	30¾
Skyline Corp	17¾	18
Snap-On-Tools	31¾	31¾
Southern Co	20¾	20¾
Sthwestern Bell	42¼	42¼
Sprint Corp	27¾	26¾
Stanley Works	36	35¾
Sun Company	27¾	27¾
Sun Microsys	34¾	33¾
Suntrust	50¾	49¾
Supervalu	23¼	23¾
Sysco Corp	27	27
TRW Inc	63½	62¾
TCI Inds	2¾	2¾
Tandem Comp	16¾	16¾
Tandy Corp	45¾	47¾
Teledyne	17¾	17
Temple Inland	46¾	46
Tenneco	40¾	40¾
Texaco	61¾	61
Texas Inst	72¾	73¾
Texas Utilities	32¼	32¾
Textron	49¾	48¾
Time Warner	33¾	33¾
Times-Mirror	31¾	31¾
Timken	35	34¾
Torchmark	35¾	34¾
Toys R Us	34¾	34¾
Transamerica	48¾	47¾
Travelers	31¾	31¾
Tribune	53¾	53
Tyco Labs	46¾	46
UST Inc	28	28
UAL	87¾	87¾
USX Marathon	16¼	16¾
Unicom	24½	23¾
Unilever NY	113¾	113¾
Union Camp	49	48¾
Union Carbide	30¼	30¾
Union Pacific	47¾	47¾
Unisys Corp	9	9
USAIR Group	4½	4¾
USF&G Corp	13¾	13¾
US Life	35¾	35¾
US West	36	36
United Tech	61¾	61
Unocal Corp	26¾	26¾
Upjohn	31	31¾
VF Corp	46¾	46¾
WMX Tech	26¾	26¾
Wal-Mart Stores	22¾	22¾
Warner-Lambert	77¾	76¾
Wells Fargo	146¾	146¾
Westinghouse El	12¾	12
Weyerhaeuser	38¾	37¾
Whirlpool	48¾	48¾
Whitman	16¾	16¾
Winn Dixie	52¾	51½
Woolworth	14¾	14¾
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	47¾	47¾
Xerox	98¾	98¾
Yellow Corp	22¼	21¾

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DISCLOSURE 22,23

What you will be entitled to know from next month

WEEKEND MONEY

POWER PLAY 24

Boost for electricity investors



CONTINENTAL stock markets have certainly fared better than many others this year. Leading the parade with an impressive 16 per cent rise is Mercury's World Trader European Equity Bear fund. But this unit trust and its sister US funds, invest in derivatives and have a minimum investment level of £50,000 for each fund or an overall entry requirement of £250,000. On a more general market view European corporate earnings have shown a marked improvement this year and next year they should do even better. German companies, which were the last to start restructuring, are particularly well-placed.

EUROPE

End Date	12.12.94
Start Date	03.01.94
Mercury WT Euro Eqty Bear	£116.19
Morgan Grenfell Euro Grth	109.29
HTR Euro Spec Sits	105.59
Gartmore Euro Select Opps	102.17
Dimensional Euro Small Cos	100.48
Govett MIS Euro Bear	99.87
Sector Average	92.66
No of Trusts in sector	123

THE United States, and the Federal Reserve, America's central bank, in particular, have been blamed for the volatility that has gripped world equity and bond markets in the past year. President Clinton's drubbing in the mid-term elections did not help. As the table shows, five out of the six best performers have been funds that use derivative investment instruments. For the more cautious or less well-heeled investor, some exposure to the world's largest stock market is a reasonable strategy. But while US smaller companies and recovery situations still hold out the prospect of growth, a portfolio with some blue-chip holdings is probably a wise hedge.

UNITED STATES

End Date	12.12.94
Start Date	03.01.94
Mercury WT US Currency Bear	£105.15
Mercury WT US Treasury Bear	102.10
GT American Special Situations	98.35
Mercury WT US Equity Bear	98.16
Govett MIS US Bear	97.00
Govett MIS Dollar Bear	96.83
Sector Average	84.73
No of Trusts in sector	130

THE old adage that if you want to build an equity portfolio you should start with the UK stock market with companies that you know and understand is not necessarily wrong but it does leave you at the mercy of just one market. Graham Clapp, fund manager of Fidelity's Recovery unit trust, "there has been a modest downgrading of earnings expectations. I would be very surprised if the market was down at this stage next year. My best guess is that it will be up by between 5 per cent and 10 per cent." Many analysts believe the Bank may raise the base rate a further 0.5 per cent in the new year but the market is likely to applaud tight fiscal policy.

UNITED KINGDOM

End Date	12.12.94
Start Date	03.01.94
Fidelity Recovery	£101.70
Arkwright Recovery	100.98
St James Pl UK & Gen Prgssve	96.72
Premium Lf Growth	96.01
Guinness Flight Recovery	93.77
Pembroke	93.48
Sector Average	86.10
No of Trusts in sector	140

What happened to my unit trusts?

Robert Miller charts the course of a lacklustre year for investors

Unit trusts have enjoyed a bumper year with net inflows of nearly £5 billion. But investors have lost money. The number of unitholders has risen by about one million bringing the total number to six million. Between them they have £93 billion in 1,500 unit trusts.

Many were tempted from their savings accounts by low interest rates and the tax-free tag of personal equity plans. They were told: "Put your cash into equities and you will get a better return than a savings account." Over three to five years, that is probably true.

At this stage of the year, based on the experience of the past five years, investors might have expected an average return of 5 per cent after taking initial charges into account. Instead, losses of 10 to 20 per cent have been seen in most world stock markets.

As our tables show, even those unit trusts which have managed to buck the trend are showing minimal gains. So what went wrong?

Last year, for the first time, US mutual funds, the equivalent of UK unit trusts, invested in overseas markets. Top of their list were the emerging markets. This wall of money pushed markets to new highs.

At the start of this year it seemed the momentum would be maintained. Then, in February, the US Fed raised interest rates because it feared inflationary pressures were threatening the recovery. Within weeks billions of dollars were repatriated from emerging markets and the knock-on effect was that equity and bond markets worldwide took fright. Subsequent US rate rises fuelled these fears.

But now there is a feeling that by spring the effect of higher US rates will have bitten and inflationary pressures will have eased. This, coupled with the fact that Bill Clinton is at bay in the White House and unlikely to upset the market with new legislation, could signal the start of a recovery.

☐ The tables show the top six performing trusts and average for selected sectors. performances show value of £100 invested in an offer to bid basis with net income reinvested. *Source: Micropal.*

MARCY NIGHSWANDER/AP



Bill and Hillary Clinton on a rare night away from economic problems

Insurers pass the Aids test

THE controversy surrounding the Duchess of York's admission that she had undergone two Aids tests has once again raised fears that those who are not in high risk groups but have nevertheless had HIV tests may be denied insurance (Anne Ashworth writes). However, a change to the questions posed by life insurance companies to potential policyholders, which takes effect in the New Year, means that many of these fears may be groundless. In the mid-1980's, a question asking a potential policyholder whether he or she had had an HIV test began to appear on policy proposal forms. Acting on pessimistic forecasts from the Government and the medical profession about numbers of likely HIV-related deaths, the insurance industry took the view that claims arising from these cases would damage their reserves. The question, "Have you ever had an HIV-test" effectively excluded many homosexual men from taking out life cover on a mortgage.



Anyone who answered "yes", was asked for details and many, such as those who had had a test as part of antenatal care, feared being blacklisted. Henceforth, the question will be changed to the less onerous "Have you ever had a positive HIV-test". This wording is to be adopted by the vast majority of companies. However, the Association of British Insurers says that anyone who had been refused cover as a result of an earlier response would still be rejected. Insurers would also be likely to demand that anyone seeking a large amount of life cover would require an HIV test.

Weekend Money is Edited by Anne Ashworth

THE Japanese stock market has performed better than most this year. But as Peter Glynne-Percy, a member of Invesco's Japanese investment team says, points out it started from a severely depressed base. The first glimmer of a recovery in the Japanese market came at the end of last year shortly after the Nikkei 225 index fell sharply to about around 16,000. That to many marked the low point in what was one of the severest recessions to hit Japan in the post-war years. There are still some concerns over the continuing strength of the Japanese yen in relation to the US dollar that could impact on sales by Japanese exporters but the worry may be overdone.

JAPAN

End Date	12.12.94
Start Date	03.01.94
Hill Samuel Jap'se Tech	£119.46
Prudential Jap'se	115.16
Schroder Inst Jap Smlr Cos	115.05
Dimensional Jap'se Small Cos	114.72
INVESCO Japan Smaller Cos	112.03
NM Japan Smaller Cos	111.73
Sector Average	103.96
No of Trusts in sector	85

EMERGING markets tend to conjure up visions of exotic locations and handsome returns. In recent years this has been true of a number of markets as more and more have come into the main stream. But the losses can be as dramatic as the gains and a great deal more painful. As the table shows, the average unit trust in this sector has produced a loss of more than 22 per cent. This year only Baring's single market Korea trust has produced a profit of nearly 12 per cent. The other funds that have managed to limit their losses are also those investing in the Far East. Latin America last year's favourite emerging markets theme failed to get a look in.

EMERGING MKTS

End Date	12.12.94
Start Date	03.01.94
Baring Korea	£111.84
GT Korean Securities	97.38
Schroder Seoul	91.25
Stewart Ivory Emerging Mkts	87.55
Prov Capitol Thailand	87.42
S&P Korea	85.35
Sector Average	77.69
No of Trusts in sector	21

INVESTORS looking to the Far Eastern markets have a choice between unit trusts that include the Japanese market and those that exclude it. In recent years Japanese companies have established subsidiaries in the developing markets of the region. Labour and other costs are much cheaper, and the goods they make are then exported back to Japan and other countries. But picking single market funds, such as those investing in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand or Hong Kong, is a risky strategy. A risk-averse investor who wants exposure to the Far East might be better off having a Japanese trust and a separate one for other Far Eastern markets.

FAR EAST

End Date	12.12.94
Start Date	03.01.94
Baring Korea	£111.84
GT Korean Securities	97.38
Schroder Seoul	91.25
Prov Capitol Thailand	87.42
S&P Korea	85.35
Prov Capitol Emerging Asia	84.90
Sector Average	72.39
No of Trusts in sector	61

Stop playing monopoly

INVESTMENT STRATEGY



ANTHONY HARRIS

Watch out, Sid. A cloud appeared over Dudley on Thursday. This is not a column on psephology, and the Conservative voters' strike is suggestive, but not yet conclusive. It is, in any case, a bit early to start trimming your portfolio for the Age of Blair. We know too little of his intentions, and, in any case, markets seldom discount politics more than a year ahead. At this stage, you should simply note that the chances of a bull surge in British equities are now pretty thin, and pay more attention to foreign opportunities. That is still where American money is going, and it is always a good idea to follow the dollar.

Given the Tory party's Houdini skill, its chances of recovery cannot be entirely written off. They are thin, but better than Cedric Brown's chance of a peerage; that is the market message of Dudley. Poor John Major tried to turn his rage at British Gas's antics into an attack on Blair, but the Tory benches muttered "Obscene". Brown and his board have turned privatisation, the great Thatcher example to the world, into a term of abuse, and we will not have to wait until an election for Whitehall's revenge. It is a matter of political survival. Regulation? You've seen nothing yet.

It is not just gas. Electricity distributors have vulnerably high profits, and pricing policies that move even those who write to the *Financial Times* to allege sabotaging of British competitiveness. There will be another loss of Tory votes when the next water bills go out. Only BT and British Steel look politically immune, fighting genuine competition rather than regulators. Either way, it seems the halcyon days of privatised utilities, such a big factor in the 1980s bull market, will soon end.

This should surprise no one who has read history. Selling monopolies has ever been a favourite of bankrupt rulers, but buyers have never been allowed to prosper for long. The intention this time was to do better through tight regulation, but miscalculations were inevitable. Water utilities were allowed to raise too much of their large capital requirement from customers, rather than capital markets. The scope for cost savings in electricity distribution was grossly underestimated, so a price regime that looked demanding has proved all too easy.

The danger is that a vengeful Government will overdo the cure. In the long run, it seems certain that utilities will emerge much as the privately financed utilities of the US. They will work in a regime that explicitly limits profits rather than just prices, and will trade like a more risky variety of indexed bonds, safe but dull. It is the route from here to there that will determine how big this risk discount will be.

The biggest risk is that ministers and regulators will project the recent trend of cost-cutting and profit unrealistically far into the future. There is a further danger that current share prices enshrine the same error in the opposite sense. The early gains have been a regulatory windfall — hence the more distant threat of a Labour tax on it. Further, utilities are compressing the leaner-but-fitter transformation that revived British manufacturing into a shorter timescale. Progress on a trodden path is quicker, but you get not to a Promised Land, but a destination. First you run, then you plod.

Dump utilities now? It is probably the safe strategy. But if you are enjoying the current excitement, take a last gamble — and then cash in. This is the exception to the safe old rule that you should run your gains.

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You have the right to know how much your life policy costs

What will it cost me?



Disclosure, a disturbing title, and now a film with Michael Douglas and Demi Moore

In Michael Crichton's best-selling novel Disclosure, a charge of sexual harassment threatens to deprive an entrepreneur of the fortune he would have made from the flotation of a hi-tech business. *Gripping stuff, but the title is* not one that life insurance company chief executives will wish to find beneath the tree this Christmas. As they have already admitted, the new charge and disclosure regime which starts on January 1 poses a risk to their profits.

For the first time, after a concerted campaign, they will be forced to reveal to customers in pounds and pence how much is used from pension and *insurance premiums for com*mission, administration and management expenses.

In the past, the industry has been so good at disguising *these costs that many custom*ers thought they were receiving free advice. Few realised that generous upfront commissions would significantly reduce their pension or lump sum.

To know what information you should receive when you arrange a pension or a life insurance company investment plan, read our guide to the rules and how they will be monitored. We report, too, on the dilemma for independent advisers who also face a less lucrative New Year.

Q I'm thinking of taking out an endowment policy. If I wait until the new year, what should I be told before buying it?

A Your adviser should give you a document explaining key features of the policy you are about to buy. This should include the aims (is it a life policy or mainly a savings plan with a bit of life cover thrown in?), the features of the policy, how risky it is and the premiums. You should receive a personal illustration, showing how your investment may grow in pounds and pence.

Q When you say personal illustration, does this mean the company will have to work out how much I personally may get or will it use examples?

A Until July 1, they can get away with using examples rather than working out exactly how much you individually may get. But most major life companies will use your personal details as part of the illustration from next month. To show how your policy may grow, companies will have to use three rates, 5, 7.5 and 10 per cent (the equivalents for pensions are 6, 9 and 12 per cent). For the first time, life offices must deduct their own charges (including salesmen's commission). They will also have to use their own charges to tell you how much you will get if you cash in your policy early.

Q Don't all life offices charge about the same?

A No, there are big differences. But until now, they have been able to use industry standard charges, masking the differences between companies.

Q Will these charges include commission?

A Yes. Costs, including commission, will be shown separately on the personal illustration. But individual advisers will not pocket the whole amount shown. Only if *your adviser is a one-man* band will he get the whole amount. But the whole amount will be deducted from your investment. The total *amount, not just the commis*sion, is the important thing.

Q So I should be able to compare one company with another, if they work out their final payouts and early surrender payouts using their own charges?

A Yes, although you may find yourself doing most of the legwork. If you have an independent adviser, he or she should be able to get you several quotes from different companies. Tied agents will only give you quotations from one company. For comparisons, you will have to visit several agents.

Q Are some companies spreading the commission over the term of the policy rather than taking it all at the start as they do now?

A This is true. Companies think (probably rightly) that many customers may be put off when they see how much their policy is costing them and how much is being deducted from their investment, so some are spreading the costs.

Q Is it better if they spread the costs?

A It should be, as a proportion of your money is *invested from the start instead* of being taken in charges, and has longer to grow. But you could find the company has raised its charges to make up for the longer wait for its set-up payments.

Q Will these new rules apply to all policies?

A No, only to endowment policies, personal pensions and term assurance which pays out benefits after 70. If you have ordinary term assurance (to cover a mortgage for example), permanent health insurance, critical illness cover, unit trusts, mortgage payment protection or personal equity plans, the salesman does not have to reveal the costs of the policy.

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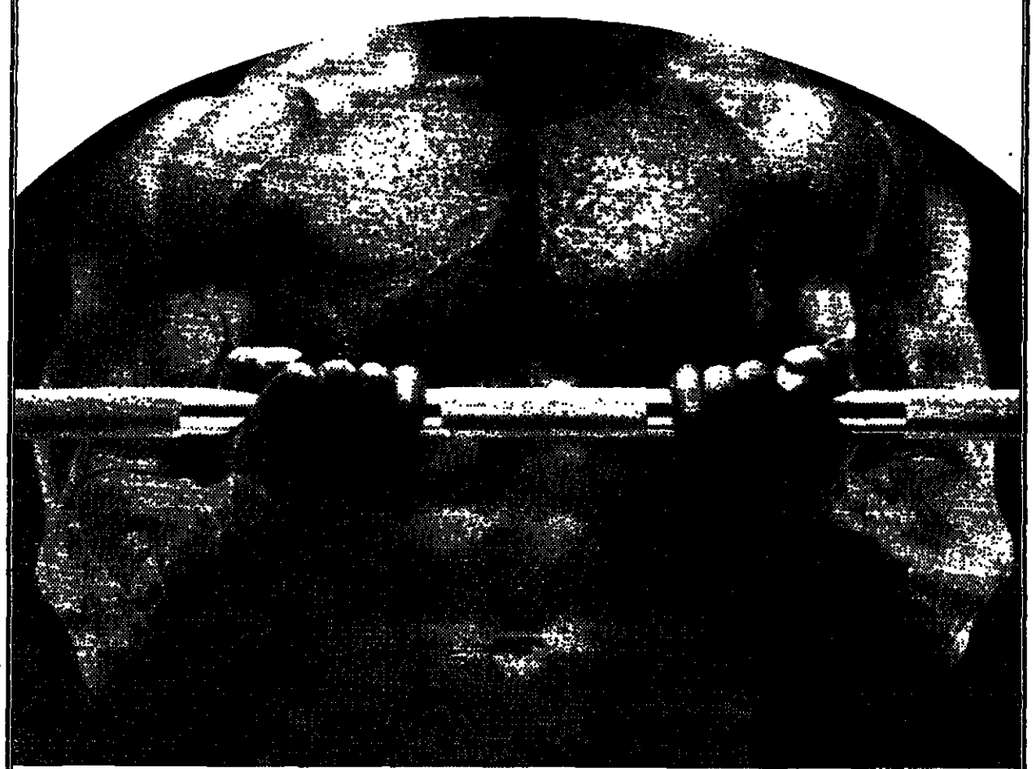
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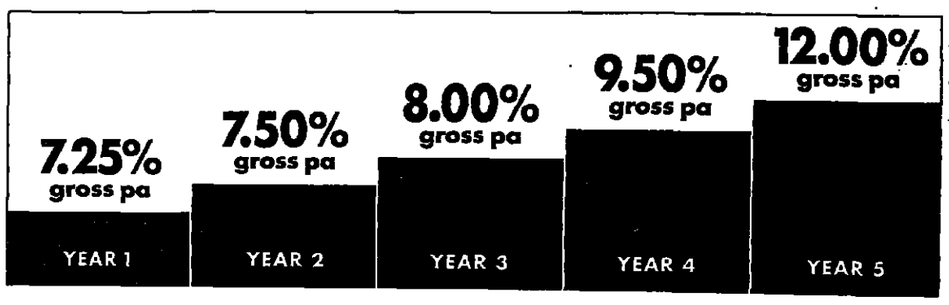


Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future investment performance. The price of units and the income gained from them can go down as well as up as a result of changes in the value of underlying securities and currencies. An investor may not get back the original amount invested. *Source all figures: Investment Intelligence. †All funds, £100 invested, offer to offer, income reinvested. Group weighted performance to 1.11.94 †Performance over 5 year period. 5th. Thailand Trust – 282.8%, 10th. Latin American Companies Trust – 91.1% since launch 7.9.91; offer to offer, net income reinvested. ** Source: Fortune Magazine.

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††Gross rates for monthly income: Year 1: 7.00%; Year 2: 7.25%; Year 3: 7.75%; Year 4: 9.15%; Year 5: 11.50%

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you from next month. But there are still risks. **Weekend Money** reports

Whose best advice is it anyway?

Independent financial advisers are always supposed to act in their clients' best interests — to give "best advice". But the fact that IFAs will have to start disclosing commission does not mean that they will have to choose the best value product.

IFAs have long faced a potential conflict of interest between what's best for the consumer and maximising the money they get from a sale. This dilemma is being brought to a head by the decision of some life insurance and pension companies to offer IFAs a choice of payments, ranging from a lump sum up front to commission deducted in level amounts throughout the life of the product.

In virtually all cases, the level commission product is better value. Because a much higher proportion of the premiums is invested early on in the policy's term, not only are the early cash-in values much better but the lump sum you get if you stay with the policy until maturity is also higher.

For example, with some Scottish Provident policies, each cut of one per cent that the IFA takes in the up-front commission produces a new per cent increase in projected maturity values.

So, how can an IFA ever square selling the poorer value product with the requirement to give best advice? John Hay of Scottish Provident, while conceding that this is a "difficult one", says that IFAs have "to earn their living."

John Humphries, of Sun Alliance disagrees, saying that "Consumers should now be cracking the whip" and IFAs should "stop burying their heads in the sand... and learn to manage the cashflow problems" caused by a loss of big up-front commission payments. He conceded that Sun Alliance is moving to level commissions on pensions because of their small share — less than one per cent — of the IFA market.

Standard Life has followed the route of keeping big up-front commissions for IFAs, but spreading out the charges taken from the policy over its term. While this improves early cash-in values, the high commissions have to be paid for somehow and payments on standard life policies that are held to maturity will be slightly cut.

The clear inference of these moves is that some IFAs cannot be relied on to recommend a product that doesn't pay them enough, irrespective of that product's quality.

Regulators who police the quality of advice have proved reluctant to intervene on the thorny issue of what constitutes "best advice".

Will Hastings, of the Personal Investment Authority, while conceding that the best advice would be to recommend a level commission product all other factors being equal, stressed that level commission "isn't by any means always the best advice... the basis of remuneration is up to the provider and the adviser to agree".

A revealing section in a Scottish Provident leaflet for IFAs points out that, while commission payments for term insurance can normally still be kept hidden, they will need to be disclosed if the insurance is sold as part of a package, such as alongside a mortgage — "We have therefore decided to offer commission flexibility". Where best advice — or indeed the consumer — comes into all this is not disclosed.

JEAN EAGLESHAM

No cheating here, say watchdogs

Sleight of hand in the preparation of the figures for charges should be impossible under the new rules, or so the investment watchdogs believe. The Personal Investment Authority, which regulates the life insurance industry, intends to ensure that companies fearing that their charges will compare unfavourably with those of their competitors do not employ creative accounting techniques to conceal expenses (Anne Ashworth writes).

"We will not allow any cheating," says Colin Hawtin of the PIA. "In particular, we will be looking out for companies that show very high commission figures but very low overall charges. As commissions are paid out of charges, it stands to sense that with a company that pays big commissions, its charges will increase proportionately."

The old system for the disclosure of charges, the reduction in yield, left the companies considerable room for manoeuvre. The figure which showed the impact of the charges over the whole period of the policy, expressed as an obscure percentage, seemed often to have little to do with a company's operating costs and the commissions it distributed to middlemen.

Few people ever looked at the reduction in yield, or could understand its implications for the final return, so these accounting flights of fancy were seldom questioned. Policyholders did not realise that, on a £50-a-month, 25-year endowment policy, a reduction in yield figure could mean the final lump sum might be reduced by £2,000.

The new charge disclosure regime has been devised to protect and inform the consumer. But it would be naive to suppose that companies could not use the rules to their own advantage. One example is the surrender value, the amount that you receive if you cash in your policy before it reaches its term. Previously, many companies paid miserable sums to those who surrendered, so as to improve the final maturity values. This helped them to boost their standing in the all-important policy performance leagues which are based on maturity values.

Now, purely to clinch a sale, some companies may be tipping the balance in favour of those who do not stay the course. Surrender values must now be displayed in the key features document. But this cynical generosity to one category of policyholder may be at the expense of the rest.

In light of this, Michael Posner, of Wolanski & Co, the actuaries, warns that customers should not be dazzled by disclosure, making it the sole factor in their choice of a pension or a policy. "Low charges are important, but so is investment performance and the service you are going to get. You wouldn't buy a car purely because it's the cheapest: you would be looking at other things, like reliability."



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

Gain from the power play

Sometime in 1996 a top management position will fall vacant, carrying a six-figure salary and sufficient clout to ensure that Chancellors return your calls.

The job in question is chief executive of Britain's biggest building society, a situation that should become available when the current number one, the Halifax, by then merged with the Leeds, starts its new life as a bank. But although the seat, now occupied by the benign Mike Blackburn, is not yet free and the Halifax-Leeds match is still an engagement, the candidates are already putting themselves forward.

One of the first on the list is talkative Peter Robinson, the 53-year-old heir apparent at the Woolwich. In pursuit of his greater ambition, he is seeking to recruit a Northern-based society to give his own institution a countrywide branch network. The Bradford & Bingley is the current favourite, although both parties, as form demands in building society courtship, deny any such suggestion.

Also thought to be interested in improving his CV through a northern alliance is Nationwide's cerebral chief executive Brian Davis, 50. As his society is the second largest, he should be the front runner, but his bid for stardom may be slowed by the problems of the southern housing slump still affecting Nationwide.

Other captains of the building society industry are also dreaming of power and influence in Whitehall and incisive appearances on *Question Time*. But their hopes may be frustrated by the acquisitive tendencies of certain banks, such as Nat West, and multinationals, such as BAT.

The Royal Bank of Scotland is said, for example, to have turned its attention to the National & Provincial, attracted by the broad range of products.

All of which is flattering for Alastair Lyons, the N & P's newly appointed chief executive, but scarcely calculated to improve his chances of delivering sound bites on News at Ten. At 41, however, he has the advantage of youth.

If you want to know how you can benefit from this power play, the best instant-access accounts at societies tipped for action in 1995 follow: N & P, Instant Reserve; Bradford & Bingley, Direct Premium; Alliance & Leicester, Midas; Birmingham Midshires, First Class; Britannia, Capital Trust; and Yorkshire, First Class Access.

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A typical key features document looks like this *Prudential*

BRIEFINGS

The nation's children have fallen on hard times, according to a survey from the Halifax building society. Not only do fewer children get regular pocket money, but those who do have taken a 9p cut, down to an average of £1.25 a week across all age groups. On top of this hardship, the income flow from grandparents seems to be drying up, particularly in the South East, where only 12 per cent of children aged six to nine received money this year, compared with 26 per cent last year. Two-fifths of children earn cash doing jobs round the house — a 10 per cent fall over the past two years, as the recession bites.

☐ Midland Bank has cut its charges on unit trusts and personal equity plans from 6 per cent to 4 per cent, and has halved the minimum regular savings contribution, from £100 to £50. Clients will also be told from Monday how much they will be charged for life assurance, personal pensions, term assurance and other insurance policies. All life companies will have to give this information from next month.

☐ Make sure your employer does not spend more than £50 on you at the staff party this year — or you will be taxed on it. Grant Thornton, the accountancy practice, says that employers exceeding this limit, even by a few pence, will have to declare it to the taxman and you will be taxed on it as a benefit at a rate of up to 40 per cent.

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* *Source: Micropal buying price to selling price with gross income reinvested since launch to 12.12.94. UK Enterprise Fund from 01.08.88 and from 01.12.89 +101%, 2/122; Smaller Companies Fund from 01.06.79 and from 01.12.89 +22.0%, 34/53; Income and UK Equity Funds from 03.01.72 (the earliest date for which Micropal figures are available) and from 01.12.89 +68.7%, 9/96 and +67.41%, 2/85 respectively.*
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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Electricity warms as societies wait

SAVERS who hoped that last week's base rate rise would bring a Christmas present in the shape of better returns on building society accounts must by now be reconciled to waiting until Twelfth Night (Anne Ashworth writes).

The growing expectation of further base rate rises means that societies will now wait until the new year, when they will raise mortgage and savings rates simultaneously. This week, only a few institutions altered their rates. The Abbey National, for example, raised them on its Tax Exempt Special Savings Account (Tessa) to between 6.5 per cent and 7 per cent, depending on the balance. The previous rates ranged from 6.25 per cent to 6.55 per cent. For other Tessa offers, see table (right).

By way of consolation, there was some light relief for those thousands of savers who also hold shares in the electricity companies. The announcement that Trafalgar House, the construction conglomerate, was considering a bid for Northern Electric sent a thrill through the electricity sector. Shares in Northern rose by 100p to 1,010p and other large gains were registered by Manweb, up 51p to 831p, and South Western, up 55p to 843p.

The excitement continued on Thursday, with Northern rising a further 40p to 1,050p, before closing at 984p, a rise of 97p since Monday. Yesterday at 1.30pm, they stood at 985p.

The biggest percentage rise between Monday and Thursday was by Seeboard, whose shares rose 15.75 per cent to 463p. South Western came second with a rise of 13.21 per cent.

Over the four-day period, there was a 4.89 per cent rise in the unit price of the Gartmore Shaw Utilities Fund, a unit trust managed by Shaw & Co, the stockbroker, and administered by Gartmore, the fund manager. The trust, which invests in utility stocks, the electricity and the water companies, British Gas and British Telecom, was already seventh out of 106 in the UK General Equity fund sector before the rise.

During the year to date, as our graph below shows, these shares have at times under performed the FT-SE All-Share index, but during the autumn and early winter they began to make up some lost ground. In the past few days, water shares have been beneficiaries of the electricity share rises, gaining an average of 3 to 4 per cent.

SAVERS BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Skipton BS 0756 700511	3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.10	Yrly
Britannia BS 0538 391741	Capital Trust	Postal	£10,000	6.35	Yrly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.65	Yrly
Nationwide BS 0800 665511	Investdirect	Postal	£50,000	6.70	Yrly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Skipton BS 0800 446776	Fixed Rate Bond	1.12 96	£2,000	8.10	F/Yly
Bristol & West BS 0272 294271	Fixed Rate Bond	3yr bond	£5,000	8.30	F/Mly
Woolwich BS 0800 400900	Fixed Rate Bond	3yr bond	£500	8.50	F/Yly
Bristol & West BS 0272 294271	Fixed Rate Bond	5yr bond	£5,000	8.70	F/Mly

TESSAs (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 0438 744500		5 year	£8,900	9.00	F/Yly
Hinkley & Rugby BS 0455 251234		5 year	£3,000 A	7.50	Yrly
Holmsedale BS 0737 245716		5 year	£1	7.40	Yrly
Tipton & Coseley BS 021 557 2551		5 year	£1	7.35	Yrly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0702 349393	MasterCard	1.25%	16.00%	Nil C
MBNA International 0800 062620	Mastercard/Visa	1.38%	17.90%	Nil

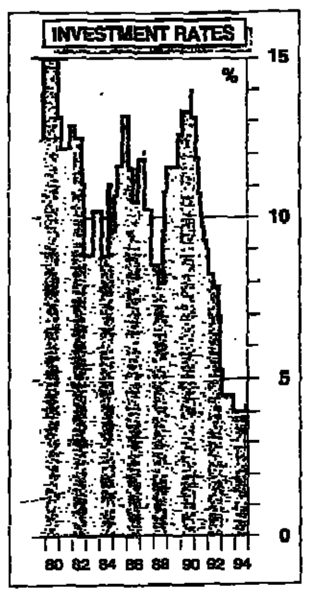
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

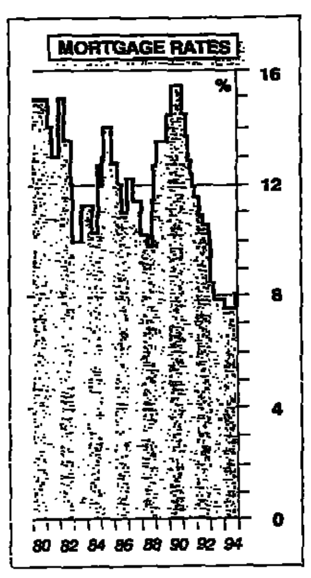
	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Bank (NI) 0232 245277	13.60%	£113.97	£100.83
Midland Bank 0345 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
Clydesdale Bank 041 223 2216	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33
Abbey National 0908 680140	16.40%	£116.61	£104.41

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged p.a. F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (0692 500 665).





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		0416494555
Investment A/c*	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500	1mth	0416494555
Income Bond*	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	0253766151
First Opt Bond	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		0416362558
42nd Issue Cert†	5.85			100-10,000	8day	0913864900
Yearly Plan†	5.85			20-400/mth	14day	0913864900
Children's Bond†	7.86			25-1,000	1mth	0416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	0416362603
8th Index Linked†	3.00			100-10,000	8day	0913864900

¹ first £70 (£140 joint) of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less. ² Additional holdings up to £20,000 for investors reinvesting proceeds of existing matured certificates †Tax free *Interest rates gross and variable ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years +0.3% net bonus for £20,000+

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Sun Life	Level	£10,693	£11,771	£13,237
Can Life	Escalating 5%	£7,041	£8,369	£10,047
Stan Life	Level	£10,688	£11,732	£13,100
Stan Life	Escalating 5%	£7,184	£8,336	£9,824
Can Life	Level	£10,563	£11,718	£13,285
Sun Life	Escalating 5%	£7,104	£8,278	£9,856

SINGLE LIFE	Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Sun Life	Level	£9,909	£10,670	£11,795
Sun Life	Escalating 5%	£6,243	£7,108	£8,381
Can Life	Level	£9,746	£10,570	£11,788
Can Life	Escalating 5%	£6,074	£7,079	£8,470
Prudential	Level	£9,818	£10,548	£11,630
Prudential	Escalating 5%	£6,218	£7,050	£8,226

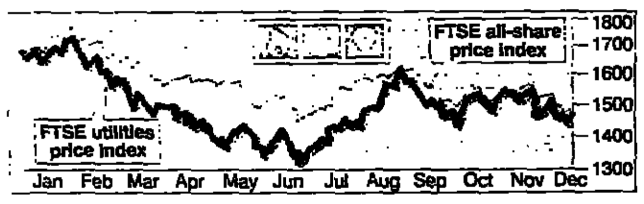
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: / Female:	Age 60 / Age 55	Age 65 / Age 60	Age 70 / Age 65
Sun Life	Level	£9,490	£10,028	£10,766
Prudential	Escalating 5%	£5,790	£6,457	£7,362
Prudential	Level	£9,449	£10,020	£10,832
Sun Life	Escalating 5%	£5,783	£6,449	£7,333
Can Life	Level	£9,341	£9,986	£10,905
Can Life	Escalating 5%	£5,622	£6,420	£7,490

Source: Annuity Direct (071 375 1175)

ELECTRICITY COMPANIES

	Monday close	Thurs close	Moves in p	% chge	Float price
East Midlands	706p	798p	+92p	+13.03	240p
Eastern Group	752p	766p	+14p	+1.86	240p
London	683p	738p	+55p	+8.05	240p
Manweb	772p	855p	+83p	+10.75	240p
Midlands	743p	836p	+93p	+12.51	240p
Northern	887p	984p	+97p	+10.93	240p
Northern Ireland	360p	368p	+8p	+2.22	220p
NORWEB	753p	791p	+38p	+5.04	240p
Seeboard	400p	463p	+63p	+15.75	120*
South Wales	767p	834p	+67p	+8.73	240p
South Western	757p	857p	+100p	+13.21	240p
Southern	750p	792p	+42p	+5.60	240p
York	694p	747p	+53p	+7.63	240p
GENERATORS					
National Power	468p	461p	-7p	-1.49	175p
Powergen	497p	493p	-4p	-0.8	175p
Scottish Hydro	323p	327p	+4p	+1.24	240p
Scottish Power	330p	337p	+7p	+2.12	240p

* Adjusted for Scrip Issue 1.1
Source: Shaw & Co Limited (0892) 665599

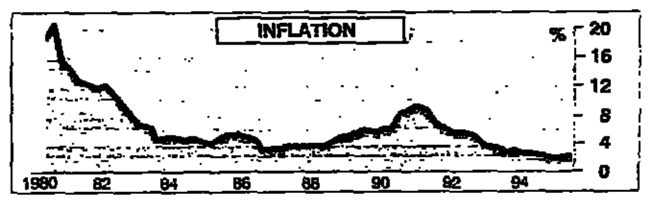


PIBS

FIXED RATE	Fixed gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	% Issue Price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	90.25	10.382	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	113.50	10.242	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	126.00	10.317	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	127.50	10.490	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	123.75	10.505	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Glos	11.750%	116.25	10.108	100.96	50,000
Coventry	12.125%	115.00	10.528	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	102.75	11.436	100.28	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	90.00	9.722	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	119.75	10.021	100.28	50,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	135.25	10.074	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	127.25	10.511	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	102.13	10.526	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	117.50	10.745	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	120.00	10.521	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	121.25	10.619	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue Price	Minimum purchase amount
First National	8.9875%	100.75	100.00	1,000
Cheshire	8.8854%	101.50	100.00	1,000

Source: Hoare Govett



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Skipton 0800 590 545	1.89%	to £250k	95	6% disc 6mths then 2% for 1yr
Leeds Permanent 0113 243 8181	2.14%	neg	95	6%-6mnths,3%-3 mnths, 1%-year
Coventry 0203 839333	2.40%	to £125k	75	5.74% discount to 1.8.95
Banks				
Nat West Home Loans 021 234 8013	3.35%	to £120k	75	4.75% discount for 1 year
Other				
TSB 021 600 6020	3.35%	neg	75	4.70% disc 1yr

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Skipton 0800 590545	1.89%	to £250k	95	6% for 6 mnths, 2% for 1 year
Leeds Permanent 0113 243 8181	2.14%	neg	95	6%-6mnth,3%-3 mnth,1% for 1yr
Penrith 01768 63675	2.25%	£30k +	85	5% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 605000	2.95%	£20-£210k	90	5.10% discount to 1.11.95
Other (Banks)				
Bank of Scotland 031 523 7087	2.99%	£30-£200k	95	Fixed rate for 6 months

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Skipton 0800 590545	1.89%	to £150k	95	6% disc for 6mnth 2% for 1 year
Scarborough 0723 368115	1.95%	to £100k	95	After 6.20% disc for 6 months
Progressive 0232 330431	2.10%	neg	95	After 6% discount to 1.9.95
Banks				
B of Ireland 0734 393393	3.95%	£30-£80k	95	After 4.10% disc to 1.11.95
Other (Banks)				
Lloyds 0117 9433433	4.35%	to £60K	95	After 3.75% disc for 1 year

Larger loans and Larger lenders are supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. First-time buyers figures supplied by Blay's MortgageMatch. further info Blay's Guides, 0753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS. 071 538 8800				
Balanced	439.60	465.20	-2.50	...
UK Equity	543.60	575.30	-4.80	...
Property	484.50	512.70	-0.60	...
Fixed Interest	311.10	329.30	-0.40	...
Money	251.30	266.00	+0.20	...
International	362.00	383.10	-2.80	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 0202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	276.90	291.50	...	...
-do- Acc	523.30	550.90	+0.10	...
Equity Fd Inc	159.20	167.60	...	0.0
-do- Acc	212.30	223.50	...	0.0
Selective Fd	477.40	502.60	+0.50	0.0
Money Fd	377.80	397.70	+0.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	408.10	429.60	...	...
Equity Ser 4	206.20	217.10	+0.10	...
Man Ser 4	648.50	682.70	-0.10	0.0
Conv Ser 4	328.70	346.00	+0.20	...
Money Ser 4	326.40	345.70	+0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	340.50	358.50	-1.40	0.0
American Ser 4	470.70	495.50	-5.30	0.0
High Inc Ser 4	647.20	681.30	-2.40	0.0
Indexed Inv Ser 4	205.60	216.50	+0.50	0.0
Japan Ser 4	357.20	376.00	-1.00	0.0
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 0707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	£14.35	£15.11	-10.90	...
European Fd Acc	351.80	370.30	-1.70	...
Fixed Int Acc	495.50	521.50	-0.10	...
Gtd Money Acc	334.60	352.10	+0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	575.90	606.30	-1.90	...
Intl Fxd Int Acc	310.30	326.50	-0.20	...
Japan Fund	269.30	283.30	-5.10	...
N American Acc	302.20	318.00	+4.40	...
Prop Fd Acc	450.30	473.90	+0.40	...
Multiple Inv Acc	982.00	£10.33	-4.00	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 0793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	373.00	392.70	+0.30	...
Equity Acc	£13.50	£14.21	+8.20	...
Property Acc	578.30	608.80	+0.50	...
Far East Acc	312.90	329.40	+3.50	...
Managed Capital	510.60	537.50	-2.10	...
-do- Acc	£10.44	£11.04	+5.50	...
Overseas Acc	987.50	934.30	+2.50	...
Gilt Edged Acc	477.00	502.30	+1.00	...
Amer Equity Acc	729.20	767.60	-12.30	...
Amer Man Acc	312.60	329.10	-5.10	...
Amer Prop Acc	116.30	122.50	+0.60	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 0494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	156.10	164.30	+0.20	...
Balced Ser 6	683.60	719.50	+3.30	...
Opportunity Ser 6	153.50	161.50	+1.00	...
Distribution Ser 6	97.90	103.00	-0.50	6.99
UK Equities Ser 6	925.60	974.30	+7.40	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	£10.03	£10.56	+10.90	...
North Amer Ser 6	414.80	436.60	+3.10	...
Far East Ser 6	561.20	590.70	+9.90	...
Europe Ser 6	350.60	369.00	+0.80	...
Intnl Ser 6	534.00	562.10	-5.30	...
Property Ser 6	571.70	601.70	+0.60	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	426.00	448.40	+0.70	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	175.80	185.00	+0.30	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	296.30	311.90	+0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 081 534 5544				
Equity Acc	792.40	832.00	-5.30	...
-do- Initial	522.10	549.60	-3.50	...
Gilt Edged Acc	372.90	392.60	+1.00	...
-do- Initial	248.60	261.70	+0.70	...
International Acc	385.00	405.30	-0.40	...
-do- Initial	254.90	268.40	-0.20	...
Managed Acc	499.30	525.60	-1.70	...
-do- Initial	331.70	349.20	-1.20	...
Money Acc	291.10	306.50	+0.30	...
Property Acc	305.60	321.70	-0.30	...
-do- Initial	201.40	212.00	...	...
America Acc	261.10	274.90	+3.60	...
Australia Acc	210.60	221.70	+5.00	...
Financial Acc	305.00	321.10	-2.40	...
500 Account	417.20	439.20	-1.60	...
Japan Genl Acc	341.00	359.00	-4.20	...
Income Acc	487.90	513.50	-1.60	...
Leisure Acc	216.30	227.70	-2.90	...
Special Sits Acc	221.00	232.70	-1.50	...
Univ Tech Acc	151.30	159.30	+0.70	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 0634 834000				
The Managed Fd	766.69	766.69	-4.35	...
Income Fund	725.65	763.85	-6.51	...
Extra Income	659.28	693.98	-4.44	...
Worldwide Gth	470.03	494.77	-5.48	...
Balanced Fund	626.45	659.40	-6.34	...
Smllr Cos Recov	649.93	684.14	-8.57	...
N Amer & Genl	333.85	351.43	-1.40	...
Pacific Basin	398.09	419.05	-2.97	...
German Growth	223.71	235.49	-1.46	...
Japan Growth	180.34	189.84	-2.30	...
The UK Gth Fd	197.81	207.91	-2.13	...
Contl Euro Gth	125.19	131.78	-1.47	...
Property Fund	411.63	433.30	+0.22	...
Fixed Interest	297.69	313.36	-0.77	...
Cash Fund	283.11	298.02	+0.19	...
Managed Inv	464.54	488.99	-4.10	...
Nth Amer Recov	217.26	228.70	-4.89	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	493.81	519.80	-0.42	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 57, Greenock, Renfrewshire 0475 568000				
Measured Perf	153.30	162.20	-0.30	...
Performance Plus	152.30	161.10	+0.30	...
With Profit Perf	171.90	181.90	+0.10	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	167.90	177.60	+2.30	...
Euro Opportunity	209.10	221.20	-1.80	...
North Amer Opp	155.00	164.00	+2.00	...
Far East Opp	182.00	192.50	+1.10	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	127.30	134.00	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	186.80	197.60	...	...
Fixed Int	180.70	191.20	-0.30	...
Cash	156.80	165.90	+0.10	...
Overseas	175.40	185.60	+0.30	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	315.10	331.70	-0.50	...
UK Equity	514.80	541.90	-9.80	...
Property	300.70	316.60	+2.90	...
Money Market	252.30	265.50	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	298.40	314.20	+0.30	...
Japan	376.40	396.30	-2.40	...
North America	141.80	149.30	+2.60	...
International	281.70	296.60	-0.30	...
European	269.10	283.30	-1.80	...
Far East	128.10	134.90	+1.10	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 0707 51122				
Equity Growth	£270.10	...	...	...
Managed	313.70	330.30	-1.10	...
Property	239.70	252.40	+0.20	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	235.80	248.30	+1.50	...
Equity	343.80	361.90	-3.80	...
Cash	216.90	228.40	+0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	356.90	375.70	-3.00	...
CLife Intl Fd	348.20	366.60	-0.90	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 0908 606101				
Property Fund	177.00	186.40	...	...
Managed Fund	565.60	595.40	-1.30	...
Equity Fund	321.90	338.90	-0.90	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0272 290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	273.30	287.60	+1.20	...
Ruby	165.20	173.90	+0.90	...
Emerald	141.90	149.40	+0.10	...
Equity	308.80	325.10	+1.20	...
Property	231.90	244.20	-1.50	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	197.40	207.80	-0.30	...
Indexed Secs	163.10	171.70	-0.30	...
Cash	187.00	196.90	+0.10	...
Nth American	210.90	222.10	+3.30	...
Far East	304.50	320.60	+5.60	...
International	228.90	240.90	+1.80	...
Special Sits	311.90	328.40	-0.10	...
Intl Income	275.00	289.50	+1.10	...
American Inc	181.70	191.30	+5.30	...
European	304.10	320.20	-0.90	...
Japanese	140.20	147.60	...	...
SE Asia	340.40	358.40	+8.30	...
With Profits Reg	165.00	173.70	+0.30	...
-do- Spec	165.00	173.70	+0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	304.90	321.00	-2.00	...
Equity	360.10	379.10	-2.90	...
Property	215.00	226.40	-0.40	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	246.20	259.20	-0.90	...
Index Linked	172.90	182.00	-0.70	...
Cash	250.50	263.70	+0.10	...
Nth American	352.30	365.60	+6.40	...
Far East Acc	304.80	320.90	+0.70	...
International Acc	289.30	304.60	-1.90	...
Special Sits	445.30	468.80	-0.60	...
European Flex	416.00	437.90	-0.50	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham, Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 0634 890 000				
(Units) Key	£206.17	...	-5.02	...
-do- Pacemaker	£296.60	...	-6.42	...
-do- Cash	203.24	213.94	-0.07	...
-do- Equity	505.33	531.93	-8.00	...
-do- Fxd Int	346.10	364.32	+0.11	...
-do- Managed	363.79	382.87	-4.79	...
-do- Property	294.99	310.52	-4.25	...
(Pens) Cash Cap	207.98	218.94	+0.02	...
-do- Cash Inv	304.77	320.82	+0.24	...
-do- Equity Cap	£13.26	£13.96	-9.02	...
-do- Equity Inv	£19.44	£20.46	-11.84	...
-do- Fixed Cap	380.44	400.47	+2.92	...
-do- Fixed Inv	557.49	586.84	+4.67	...
-do- Index Cap	194.53	204.78	+0.47	...
-do- Index Inv	285.06	300.07	+0.88	...
Mngd Cap	533.17	561.24	-1.35	...
Mngd Inv	781.30	822.43	-1.43	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3. 071 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (S)	£651.82	...	-11.00	...
Var Ann (S)	486.84	...	-1.17	...
Prime: Managed	384.10	404.40	-0.90	...
Prime: UK Equity	457.90	482.10	-0.50	...
Prime: Intl Equity	294.40	309.90	+2.50	...
Prime: Property	254.30	267.70	-0.10	...
Prime: Fxd Int	225.80	237.70	-0.40	...
Prime: Index-Lnk	164.70	173.40	-0.20	...
Prime: Cash	205.80	216.70	+0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 0438 744640				
Managed Fund	£10.96	£11.53	-12.60	0.0
Equity Fund	£15.65	£16.48	-17.10	...
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 0483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	573.40	603.50	+2.50	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	363.70	382.80	+1.30	...
Life Equity Acc	791.40	833.00	+2.30	...
Life Money Acc	301.40	317.20	+0.20	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	784.60	825.80	+2.30	...
Life Intl Acc	485.00	510.50	+3.70	...
Life High Inc Acc	764.30	804.40	+0.90	...
Life Property Acc	265.20	279.10	+0.20	...
Crown Brit Inv A	£12.90	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	657.70	692.30	-0.50	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 0242 221311				
Secure Fund	175.50	184.80	+0.10	...
Blue Chip Fund	229.10	241.20	-0.90	...
-do- Series 2	150.00	157.90	-0.50	...
Adventurous Fd	186.80	196.70	+1.20	...
-do- Series 2	142.90	150.50	+1.00	...
Performance Fd	234.50	246.90	-0.90	...
-do- Series 2	155.00	163.20	+0.60	...
UK Pref Fxd Int	137.60	144.90	+0.40	...
UK Equity Fund	151.70	159.70	-0.80	...
Property Fund	122.20	128.70	-2.20	...
Envmmntl Opps	152.70	160.80	-1.50	...
Euro Fund	178.10	187.50	-0.90	...
North Amer Fd	178.30	187.70	+3.30	...
Orientl Ops	228.10	240.20	-6.30	...
Japanese Fund	126.50	133.30	-0.10	...
Bri & West Life	123.80	130.40	+0.10	...
Bri & West Pen	139.50	146.90	+0.10	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 071 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	245.50	254.40	-1.70	3.60
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 0722 413366				
Managed (Mixd)	291.70	307.10	-0.10	...
UK Equity	380.30	400.40	-1.00	...
Stewardship	326.40	343.60	-1.50	...
Overseas Equity	273.00	287.40	+0.80	...
North American	142.80	150.40	+2.10	...
Pacific Basin	160.00	168.50	+1.40	...
European	207.00	217.90	...	...
Property	205.40	216.30	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	225.30	237.20	+0.80	...
Index Linked	162.50	171.10	+0.40	...
Cash	200.60	211.20	+0.10	...
FP Life Assurance or NM				
Equity	...	...	...	...
Fixed Interest	523.00	550.50	+2.10	...
Managed	669.70	704.90	+1.10	...
Deposit	343.50	361.50	+0.30	...
Property	481.60	506.90	-0.50	...
American	397.20	418.10	-10.10	...
Australian	505.80	532.40	+5.60	...
European	508.00	534.70	+0.20	...
Income Acc	733.80	772.40	+15.50	...
-do- Dist	416.10	438.10	+1.90	4.54
International	308.40	324.60	+6.40	...
Japan Smaller	522.90	550.40	-7.40	...
Singapore & Mal	383.50	403.60	+10.10	...
Smaller Cos	388.40	408.80	-5.00	...
Tokyo Fund	682.40	718.30	-11.30	...
UK Equity	558.20	587.50	+0.90	...
CCM Vangd Mg	713.60	751.10	-3.60	...
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 071 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	333.30	350.90	+1.10	...
GT Plan Wwide	482.60	508.10	-8.50	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier Street, York YO1 1HR. 0904 629982				
Managed	201.70	212.30	-0.90	...
Unitised Profit	136.70	143.80	+0.20	...
UK Equity	266.10	280.00	+0.90	...
Fixed Int	188.40	198.30	-0.10	...
Index-Linked	159.40	167.70	+0.40	...
Cash Deposit	174.30	183.40	+0.10	...
Property	190.60	200.50	+0.10	...
International	168.30	177.10	-0.50	...
American	151.00	158.80	+1.40	...
Japan	247.90	260.80	+1.20	...
Japan Smllr Cos	253.80	267.10	...	...
European	174.30	183.40	+0.50	...
Pacific Fund	284.30	299.20	+5.40	...
Conv Life	119.80	126.00	-0.60	...
GENERAL PORTFOLIO LIFE Gen Portfolio House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 0279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	657.40	657.40	+0.30	...
-do- Inv A	657.30	692.00	+0.30	...
UK Equity	381.10	401.30	-2.50	...
Gilt Plus	197.60	208.10	-0.40	...
Managed	291.40	306.80	-0.20	...
Inter Man	263.00	277.00	-1.60	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange, London EC3. 071 283 7101				
Am Prop Bds	818.90	853.10	...	...
Managed Initial	439.90	463.10	+3.10	...
-do- Acc	627.80	660.80	+4.70	...
Equity Initial	650.30	684.50	+4.90	...
-do- Acc	928.00	976.80	+7.40	...
Fixed Int Initial	430.30	452.90	+2.10	...
-do- Acc	614.00	646.30	+3.30	...
Intl Initial	438.20	461.30	-2.20	...
-do- Acc	625.30	658.20	+3.40	...
Nth Amer Initial	163.20	171.80	+7.20	...
-do- Acc	211.90	223.10	+9.40	...
Pacific Initial	240.00	252.70	+3.60	...
-do- Acc	308.80	325.10	+4.80	...
Property Initial	183.00	192.60	...	...
-do- Acc	260.90	274.60	...	...
Index-Lnkd Intl	154.20	162.30	+1.30	...
-do- Acc	200.30	210.80	+1.80	...
Deposit Initial	197.10	207.50	...	...
-do- Acc	281.30	296.10	+0.20	...
Euro Initial	101.30	106.60	-0.30	...
-do- Acc	121.60	128.00	-0.30	...
HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE Kingsgate, 1 King Edward Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4HG. 0277 200939				
Managed	159.30	167.80	-1.40	...
-do- Pens	194.80	205.00	-1.30	...
UK Equity	160.70	169.10	-1.50	...
-do- Pens	180.70	190.20	-2.30	...
International	141.70	149.10	-0.10	...
-do- Pens	154.10	162.20	-0.20	...
Deposit	139.90	147.20	+0.10	...
-do- Pens	165.50	174.20	+0.10	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 071 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	341.10	362.90	-2.80	...
North America	322.70	343.30	+4.50	...
Far East Fund	639.00	679.80	+6.50	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Global Managed	452.70	481.70	-2.10	...
Deposit Fund	229.50	241.60	+0.20	...
Prime Residential	136.00	143.20	...	...
European Fund	250.10	266.10	-1.30	...
Fixed Interest	62.10	66.10	-0.20	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 081 686 4355				
Security Fund	488.60	517.10	-0.20	...
British Fund	497.70	526.70	-0.80	...
International	520.20	550.50	-3.00	...
Dollar Fund	354.60	375.30	-0.10	...
Capital Fund	453.20	479.60	+2.00	...
Income Fund	651.10	689.00	+4.10	...
Property Series A	465.10	492.20	...	4.50
Property Units	767.00	805.40	...	...
Financial Fund	541.90	573.50	+0.60	...
Managed Ser A	515.60	545.70	+2.60	...
Managed Units	922.70	971.30	+4.40	...
High Yield Fund	608.20	643.60	+1.50	...
Money Series A	288.70	305.60	+0.30	...
Money Units	382.50	402.70	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	581.80	615.70	-3.50	...
Fixed Interest	354.10	374.80	-0.30	...
Indexed Secs	180.00	190.50	+0.60	...
European Fund	692.90	733.30	-2.30	...
Natural Res	293.70	310.80	+1.40	...
Far East Fund	648.80	686.60	+6.80	...
Smaller Cos	461.20	488.10	-3.60	...
Special Sits	421.10	445.70	+1.80	...
Man Currency	261.70	277.00	-0.30	...
Japanese Tech	286.50	303.20	-2.00	...
US Smaller Cos	225.70	238.90	+5.50	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 0727 48181				
Global Managed	538.40	566.70	-2.60	...
Global Property	291.90	307.30	...	...
Global Fixed Int	499.00	525.30	+2.40	...
Global Equity	571.30	601.40	+4.40	...
Global Cash	213.90	225.00	-0.30	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 0452 371371				
Gtd Mgd	475.00	500.00	+1.10	...
Property	487.70	513.30	+0.30	...
Managed	395.30	416.10	+0.90	...
American	373.80	393.40	+9.10	...
UK Equity Fd	419.50	441.50	-0.50	...
Japan	210.10	221.10	-0.90	...
Index-Lkd	177.60	186.90	+0.40	...
High Yield	811.70	854.40	-5.40	...
Growth Cap	420.40	442.50	+1.00	...
Money	403.30	424.50	+0.10	...
International	380.40	400.40	-1.90	...
Henderson Active	208.30	219.20	-1.90	...
Perpetual Active	309.70	325.90	-0.40	...
Growth Cap	420.40	442.50	+1.00	...
-do- Acc	620.00	652.60	+2.00	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 0273 824000				
B Sne Lnkd Init	135.00	142.20	...	...
-do- Acc	186.70	196.60	+0.10	...
Brit Opps Inl	136.10	143.30	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	169.00	177.90	-0.30	...
Cash Initial	167.20	176.00	+0.10	...
-do- Acc	287.90	303.10	-0.20	...
Equity Initial	620.60	653.30	-0.70	...
-do- Acc	£10.66	£11.24	+1.30	...
Fixed Initial	334.10	351.70	+0.80	...
-do- Acc	575.20	605.60	+1.60	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	129.30	136.00	+0.30	...
-do- Acc	189.80	199.80	+0.40	...
Intl Initial	330.20	347.60	-0.20	...
-do- Acc	569.70	599.20	-0.20	...
Managed Initial	460.30	484.60	+1.40	...
-do- Acc	792.40	834.20	+2.50	...
Property Initial	216.20	227.60	+0.10	...
-do- Acc	372.30	391.80	+0.20	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 081 902 8876				
Equity Units	‡124.05	...	+1.52	...
Property Units	‡127.29	...	...	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	162.72	£66.02	-0.59	...
2nd Equity Acc	611.20	643.40	-8.40	...
2nd High Inc Ac	588.90	619.80	-2.60	...
2nd Property Acc	248.50	261.60	...	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	177.20	186.50	+0.10	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	451.20	475.00	+4.00	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	220.90	232.60	-1.80	...
2nd Deposit Acc	280.20	294.90	...	...
2nd Gilt Acc	293.80	309.30	-0.80	...
2nd Amer Acc	632.10	665.40	-14.60	...
2nd Ind Mny Acc	259.50	273.20	+0.70	...
2nd Index Acc	201.20	211.80	+0.10	...
2nd Far East Acc	452.40	476.20	+7.40	...
2nd Global Acc	168.80	177.70	+1.10	...
2nd Euro Acc	160.30	168.80	-0.20	...
2nd Japan Acc	195.30	205.60	-0.50	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	162.00	170.50	-0.60	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	124.10	130.60	+0.30	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol. BS1 6EA 0272 279179				
Equity	‡876.10	...	+7.70	...
Fixed Interest	‡411.80	...	...	...
Property	‡412.30	...	+4.50	...
Deposit	‡292.60	...	+0.20	...
Mixed	‡591.50	...	+4.00	...
Indexed Stock	‡206.80	...	+0.60	...
International	‡234.20	...	+1.70	...
Equity A	‡203.30	...	+1.70	...
Fixed Int A	‡182.70	...	-0.10	...
Property A	‡181.30	...	+2.00	...
Deposit A	‡172.00	...	+0.10	...
Mixed A	‡191.20	...	+1.30	...
Index Stock A	‡161.70	...	+0.40	...
International A	‡177.60	...	+1.10	...
Equity P	‡718.10	...	+7.10	...
Fixed Int P	‡558.20	...	+0.30	...
Property P	‡332.90	...	+0.30	...
Deposit P	‡344.00	...	+0.20	...
Mixed P	‡532.20	...	+3.90	...
Index Stock P	‡235.80	...	+0.70	...
International P	‡330.10	...	+2.60	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 0392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap	‡575.70	...	-4.60	...
-do- Acc	‡905.30	...	-6.80	...
Property Cap	‡151.00	...	...	...
-do- Acc	‡243.50	...	+0.20	...
Fxd Interest Cap	‡189.40	...	+0.60	...
-do- Acc	‡307.10	...	-1.20	...
Equity Cap	‡298.10	...	-3.50	...
-do- Acc	‡490.00	...	-5.20	...
Internatl Cap	‡224.30	...	-0.50	...
-do- Acc	‡365.00	...	-0.50	...
Gtd Deposit Cap	‡165.40	...	...	...
-do- Acc	‡264.90	...	+0.20	...
Flexible Cap	‡326.70	...	-2.30	...
-do- Acc	‡535.40	...	-3.20	...
Moneymaker Fd	‡413.50	...	-2.70	...
Capital Growth	‡£15.94	...	-14.20	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 0245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	389.50	409.00	+7.10	...
Amer Rec Bond	452.90	475.60	+6.30	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	217.70	228.70	+5.20	...
Australasia Bd	227.40	238.90	+3.90	...
Commodity Bond	313.50	329.30	+0.90	...
Deposit Bond Acc	361.60	379.80	+0.20	...
Equity Bond Acc	£14.55	£15.28	+0.30	...
European Bd Acc	370.90	389.50	-0.10	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	691.70	726.40	-6.40	...
Far East Bd Acc	304.30	319.50	+5.90	...
Gilt Bond Acc	429.30	450.90	+2.00	...
Gold Bond Acc	157.30	165.30	-2.10	...
High Yield Bond	316.90	332.70	-1.80	...
Index-Lnk Gl Bd	200.90	211.10	+0.60	...
International Bd	747.00	784.40	+6.10	...
Japan Bond Acc	276.10	290.00	-0.80	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	266.30	279.70	-4.20	...
Managed Bonds	854.70	897.50	+1.00	...
Prop Bond Acc	321.50	337.70	-2.50	...
Rec Bond Acc	720.30	756.50	-4.70	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 0903 204631				
UK Equity	211.30	222.50	-2.10	...
UK Equity Acc	298.40	314.20	-2.70	...
Special Sits	87.40	92.00	-0.60	...
Special Sits Acc	123.40	129.90	-0.80	...
North American	167.50	176.40	-3.10	...
N American Acc	236.60	249.10	+4.50	...
Pacific Basin	353.20	371.80	+5.50	...
Pacific Basin Acc	498.90	525.20	+8.30	...
Fixed Interest	273.30	287.70	+0.40	...
Fixed Interest Acc	386.50	406.90	+0.90	...
Property	176.90	186.30	...	...
Property Acc	250.20	263.40	+0.20	...
Deposit	152.00	160.00	...	...
Deposit Acc	215.30	226.70	+0.20	...
Managed	246.00	259.00	-0.60	...
Managed Acc	320.30	337.20	-0.60	...
MANULIFE GROUP St Georges Way, Stevenage, Herts 0438 356101				
Managed Fund	684.20	720.20	-0.40	...
Property Fund	548.30	577.20	-0.50	...
Equity Fund	861.40	906.70	-0.90	...
Gilt Edged Fd	600.20	631.80	+1.80	...
Deposit Fund	331.30	348.70	+0.20	...
Investment Fd	369.90	389.40	+0.40	...
International	522.90	550.40	+1.50	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0272 266 366				
Property	450.60	480.60	+0.30	...
UK Equity	330.50	347.80	-1.50	...
Gilt Edged	556.50	585.70	+2.30	...
Interest Fund	386.70	407.00	+0.30	...
UK Fund	476.50	501.50	-1.30	...
Intl Equity	600.90	632.50	+3.90	...
Intl Managed	559.80	589.20	+1.40	...
North American	206.70	217.50	+3.90	...
Far East	462.70	487.00	+4.30	...
Intl Currency	258.30	271.70	-0.30	...
For NM Life see Friends Provident				
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 071 623 4200				
Managed	463.20	487.50	+3.00	...
UK Equity	570.90	600.90	-4.00	...
Overseas Equity	459.00	483.10	+3.80	...
Americas	385.90	406.20	+8.50	...
Far East	536.60	564.80	+4.70	...
Property	219.00	231.10	-1.50	...
Fixed Interest	373.50	393.10	+0.70	...
Indexed Gilt	224.50	236.30	-0.70	...
Deposit	216.70	228.10	+0.10	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 0603 622200				
Managed Fund	£13.58	£14.30	+5.70	...
Eqity Fund	£29.36	£30.91	+10.40	...
Property Fd	576.90	607.30	-0.60	...
Fixed Int Fd	574.80	605.10	-0.70	...
Deposit Fund	349.20	367.60	+0.30	...
Intl Fund	232.70	244.90	+1.60	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 0733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	158.60	167.00	+1.00	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	334.60	352.20	+2.00	...
Inv Equity	£11.15	£11.73	-8.60	...
Inv Managed	805.20	847.60	-1.70	...
Ret Managed	902.90	950.50	-4.10	...
PROVIDENCE CAPITOL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 0256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	272.30	287.30	+0.50	...
Fxd Interest Acc	234.80	247.70	+0.40	...
International Acc	249.10	262.80	...	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Acc	214.30	226.00	-0.40	...
Property Acc	228.50	241.10	...	...
Money Acc	154.40	162.90	+0.10	...
Spec Sits Acc	226.50	239.00	+1.30	...
Japan Equity Acc	125.90	130.70	+1.10	...
N Amer Acc	149.30	157.50	+1.70	...
Pacific Acc	159.70	169.50	+2.40	...
European Acc	182.30	192.30	-2.00	...
PROVIDENT MUTUAL William Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 0LP 0438 739000				
Managed Ord	455.90	479.90	-1.90	...
Managed Initial	307.10	323.30	+1.10	...
Equity Ord	677.60	713.30	+0.80	...
Equity Intl	456.50	480.50	+0.20	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	194.60	204.80	-0.40	...
I-Linked Gilt Inl	136.90	144.10	-0.20	...
Oseas Equity Ord	347.30	366.60	+4.00	...
Oseas Equity Intl	247.40	260.40	-2.50	...
Property Ord	281.50	296.60	...	...
Property Intl	189.90	199.90	...	...
Fixed Int Ord	273.30	287.70	+1.00	...
Fixed Int Intl	184.10	193.80	+0.50	...
Deposit Ord	206.60	217.50	+0.20	...
Deposit Initial	139.20	146.50	...	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 071 405 9222				
Managed	316.10	329.30	-5.10	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 071 548 3278				
Managed Fund	759.10	798.10	+4.20	...
Equity Fund	£14.00	£14.74	-7.00	...
Intl Fund	595.50	626.90	-5.50	...
Fixed Interest	549.70	578.70	+0.70	...
Property Fund	475.60	500.70	...	...
Cash Fund	365.10	384.40	+0.20	...
Pacific Basin	353.30	371.90	-5.90	...
N American Fd	227.80	239.80	+3.50	...
Euro Fund	253.90	267.30	-0.90	...
Balanced Fund	148.00	155.80	+0.80	...
Strategic Fund	155.20	163.40	-1.20	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 0733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)	1727.10	...	...	...
-do- Acc	437.90	461.00	...	...
Op Prop	485.10	510.70	...	...
Op Equity	899.10	946.50	+14.60	...
Op High Yield	567.30	597.20	+1.50	...
Op Managed	781.20	822.40	+4.30	...
Op Deposit	393.10	413.80	+0.30	...
Inc Gth	281.50	296.30	+1.80	...
Japan Smlr	262.40	276.20	-6.10	...
Managed Gth	242.30	255.10	-3.50	...
Gilt	78.20	82.40	+0.10	...
British	341.30	359.30	+1.30	...
Global Bond	108.00	113.70	-0.90	...
Global (35.34)	160.20	168.70	+0.80	...
Gold Share	90.60	95.40	-0.30	...
High Income	285.20	300.20	+0.80	...
Income	410.20	431.80	+2.30	...
Japan	433.10	455.90	-0.50	...
UK Smlr Cos	332.20	349.70	+5.40	...
Mngd Growth	433.10	455.90	+2.00	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 051 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	932.70	986.90	-0.40	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	370.40	389.80	-0.20	...
Equity Fund	507.70	534.40	-3.90	...
Property Fund	343.00	361.00	+0.80	...
International	465.30	489.70	+5.00	...
Pacific Basin	270.70	284.90	+4.00	...
United States	236.10	248.50	+5.90	...
Gilt Fund	356.30	375.00	-0.90	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 0708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	748.80	793.40	-0.10	2.46
Deposit Fund (2)	371.50	393.20	+0.20	6.02
Gilt Fund	506.60	536.10	+1.80	8.45
Global Equity Fd	230.10	243.50	+0.30	...
Property Fund (40)	111.40	117.90	+0.20	6.31
AG Bond Fund	149.90	158.70	-0.60	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 041 248 2323				
Equity	566.70	596.50	+4.00	...
Fixed Interest	363.20	382.40	-0.50	...
Index-Linked	190.50	200.60	-0.50	...
International	448.50	472.20	+2.70	...
Property	293.20	308.70	+0.30	...
Cash	230.20	242.40	+0.10	...
Managed	455.10	479.10	+2.90	...
Cap Gterd Bd	108.40	114.30	+1.20	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 031 556 9101				
Cash	181.50	191.05	+0.14	...
Index-Linked	156.30	164.50	+0.40	...
Fixed Interest	170.20	179.20	+0.30	...
Mixed	248.20	261.30	+1.70	...
UK Equity	230.70	242.80	+2.30	...
International	253.90	267.30	+1.80	...
American	242.90	255.70	+4.00	...
Japan	234.80	247.20	-0.20	...
European	251.30	264.50	-0.10	...
Pacific	351.60	370.10	+7.00	...
Technology	355.30	374.00	+3.70	...
Currncy/Currncy	222.00	233.70	...	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 031 225 2211				
Property	224.60	236.60	+0.30	...
UK Equity	335.70	353.50	+3.50	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American	234.40	246.80	+3.90	...
Pacific	344.50	362.70	-3.20	...
European	458.20	482.40	-0.50	...
International	296.70	312.50	+2.80	...
Fixed Interest	231.60	243.90	-0.50	...
Index Linked	189.10	199.20	+0.40	...
Deposit	194.40	204.80	+0.20	...
Managed	274.50	289.10	+2.30	...
Worldwide	116.30	122.50	+0.70	...
Pen Worldwide	132.80	139.40	+0.90	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 041 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	£15.74	£16.23	-61.30	...
Safety Fund	228.40	240.50	-0.70	...
Growth Fund	221.70	233.40	+1.30	...
Opportunity Fd	217.90	229.40	+1.30	...
Cash Fund	174.80	184.10	+0.20	...
European Fund	327.70	345.00	-1.00	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	195.90	206.30	+0.40	...
Index-Linked Fd	175.90	185.20	+0.40	...
International Fd	273.40	289.90	+3.30	...
North American	223.80	235.60	+4.40	...
Property Fund	134.00	141.10	...	...
UK Equity	235.50	247.90	+1.50	...
UK Smaller	225.30	237.20	+0.10	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 031 556 9181				
Mixed	256.10	269.70	-0.40	...
Equity	262.30	276.10	-1.70	...
International	276.30	290.90	+0.90	...
Property	233.10	245.50	-0.20	...
Fixed Interest	215.40	226.80	+0.70	...
Index Linked	174.30	183.50	+0.40	...
Cash	187.10	197.00	+0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	772.60	822.00	-1.30	...
Cash Fund	339.90	358.20	+0.10	...
Property Fund	295.30	311.20	...	...
Equity Fund	898.60	956.00	+1.70	...
Fxd Interest Fund	447.60	471.70	-1.00	...
International	404.40	430.30	-0.80	...
High Income	669.00	711.80	-4.10	...
Far East	587.50	625.10	+9.80	...
North American	506.70	539.10	+4.00	...
Special Sits	607.60	646.40	-4.80	...
Technology	534.90	569.10	+13.40	...
Extra Income Fd	366.20	389.60	-0.60	...
Gilt Fund	468.00	497.90	-0.70	...
European	146.10	155.50	-0.90	...
Adventurous Mg	211.60	222.80	+0.60	...
Secure Mgd	143.80	153.00	-0.10	...
Equity Inc Dist	112.40	118.50	-1.10	4.96
North American	107.10	112.90	-0.50	5.31
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 031 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	912.20	912.20	+1.80	...
Inv Pol 2	828.90	872.60	+1.70	...
Inv Pol 3	792.10	833.80	+1.60	...
Inv Cash	314.80	331.50	+0.30	...
Mixed Fund	431.70	454.50	...	...
Equity Fund	500.40	526.90	-0.80	...
Property Fund	276.20	290.30	-0.20	...
International Fd	480.70	506.10	-1.80	...
Fixed Interest Fd	364.60	383.90	-0.60	...
Indexed Stock Fd	190.90	201.00	+0.20	...
Cash Fund	228.20	240.30	+0.10	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 0703 334411				
Managed Acc	364.20	383.30	-1.40	...
Equity Acc	426.30	448.70	-2.20	...
International Acc	335.50	353.10	-2.80	...
Property	235.10	247.40	+0.20	...
Royal Trust Mg	228.20	240.20	-1.30	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 031 225 2552				
Cash	268.90	283.10	+0.20	...
Equity	965.70	£10.16	+6.00	...
European	165.70	174.50	+0.10	...
Far East	167.60	176.50	+2.10	...
Fixed Interest	386.80	407.20	+1.00	...
Index Linked	202.30	213.00	-0.60	...
International	599.30	630.90	-5.60	...
Managed	680.10	715.90	+4.60	...
Nth American	138.20	145.50	+2.80	...
Property	362.80	381.90	-0.20	...
Pensions				
Cash	418.80	440.90	-0.40	...
Equity	£13.72	£14.44	-8.60	...
European	196.10	206.50	+0.60	...
Far East	133.70	140.80	+3.30	...
Fixed Interest	533.30	561.40	+1.80	...
Index Linked	281.30	296.00	+0.90	...
International	836.70	880.80	+10.10	...
Managed	946.80	996.70	+7.00	...
Nth American	169.30	178.30	+3.60	...
Property	494.60	520.70	+0.40	...
Stock Exchange	212.70	223.90	+1.70	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 0403 232323				
Managed Fund	629.40	662.60	+2.70	...
Equity Fund	817.30	860.40	+2.90	...
Fixed Interest Fd	402.80	424.00	+0.50	...
Index-Linked Fd	308.10	324.40	+0.80	...
Property Fund	522.50	550.00	+0.60	...
International Fd	601.40	633.10	+4.30	...
N American Fd	221.90	233.50	+4.50	...
Far East Fund	225.00	237.70	+3.40	...
Deposit Fund	297.10	312.80	+0.30	...
International Bd	681.49	...	-1.42	...
Worldwide Bond	148.90	156.80	...	...
European	157.70	166.00	-0.30	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	619.70	652.40	-9.00	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	455.00	480.00	...	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Growth				
Property Fund	‡802.90	...	+0.80	...
-do- Acc	‡562.30	...	+0.70	...
Agricultural Fd	‡824.40	...	+0.60	...
-do- Acc	‡792.00	...	+0.60	...
Abbey Nat Fd	‡445.90	...	+0.40	...
Abbey Nat Acc	‡471.60	...	+0.50	...
Investment Fd	‡334.70	...	+1.30	...
Investment (A)	‡321.30	...	+1.30	...
Equity	‡£11.89	...	+4.00	...
Equity Acc	‡£11.38	...	+3.90	...
Money Fund	‡473.70	...	+0.40	...
-do- Acc	‡452.90	...	+0.40	...
Actuarial Fd	‡554.70	...	+2.10	...
Gilt-Edged Fd	‡377.00	...	+0.40	...
-do- Acc	‡377.00	...	+0.40	...
Retire Annuity	‡£12.59	...	...	...
Immed Annuity	‡318.50	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life	‡226.50	...	+0.10	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 0256 841414				
Growth Account	‡£13.91	...	-4.70	...
Managed Acc	‡802.70	...	-3.60	...
Equity Account	‡£11.28	...	-6.40	...
Mngd Fund Acc	369.40	388.80	-1.60	...
Equity Fund Acc	493.00	518.90	-3.10	...
Prop Fund Acc	265.20	279.10	+0.30	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	300.10	315.90	+0.20	...
Money Fund Acc	221.40	233.10	+0.10	...
Inds-Lnk Scs Ac	198.30	208.70	-0.30	...
Pers Pens Acct	‡£18.00	...	-21.50	...
Pens Mngd Acct	836.80	880.90	-10.50	...
Pens Guarantee	252.20	265.50	+0.50	...
Pens Equity	314.00	330.50	-4.40	...
Pens Property	303.00	319.00	+0.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	277.40	292.00	+0.40	...
Pens Intl	234.90	247.30	-6.00	...
Pens Money	236.50	248.90	+0.20	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	189.10	199.10	-0.60	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0272 426911				
Managed Acc	863.20	908.70	+1.30	...
Property Acc	296.90	312.60	-8.40	...
Equity Acc	£13.90	£14.63	+2.50	...
Fixed Int Acc	387.00	407.40	-0.50	...
Cash Acc	309.80	326.20	+0.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	337.90	355.70	+8.20	...
Japan Acc	309.60	325.90	-2.10	...
Pacific Acc	357.90	376.80	+3.90	...
Far Eastern Acc	836.40	880.50	+5.80	...
International Acc	571.00	601.10	-0.30	...
Distribution Fund	269.60	283.80	+1.10	6.17
European	186.00	195.80	+0.60	...
Deftrd Dist	163.30	171.90	+0.90	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 0264 345678				
Managed Fund	273.20	287.60	+1.10	...
Property Fund	230.20	242.40	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	218.20	229.80	+0.70	...
Money Fund	200.50	211.20	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	357.30	376.20	+1.60	...
TARGET LIFE The Exchange, 66 High Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. 0296 394000				
Deposit	249.70	262.90	+0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	44.20	47.60	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	318.90	335.80	+0.90	...
Gold	79.10	83.30	+1.90	...
Managed	587.70	618.70	+2.30	...
Mngd Growth	187.10	197.10	-1.70	...
Mngd Opp	198.00	208.60	-1.80	...
Property	334.60	352.30	...	...
Residential Prop	102.70	108.20	...	...
TSB American	180.60	190.20	+4.20	...
TSB Brit Gwth	803.30	845.70	+13.70	...
TSB European	259.30	273.10	-2.80	...
TSB Income	366.90	386.30	+2.70	...
TSB Intl	403.70	425.00	-1.70	...
TSB Intl Inc	269.90	283.10	-0.70	...
TSB Pacific	412.20	434.00	+3.70	...
TSB Prem Inc	244.10	255.00	+0.10	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 0952 292929				
Managed Bond	654.90	690.10	-3.90	...
Money Fund	318.50	335.20	+0.10	...
Equity Fund	569.20	600.50	...	...
Fixed Interest	268.90	283.30	...	...
Property Fund	368.60	384.80	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	524.00	552.20	+0.70	...
Income	709.30	747.70	-2.90	...
International Gth	601.30	633.60	+6.60	...
Capital Fund	600.70	633.00	-4.70	...
Recovery Fund	607.30	639.90	-1.00	...
Japan & General	261.50	275.60	-1.00	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.11	19.06	...	...
Bear	18.58	19.56	...	...
Owl	19.05	20.05	-0.03	...
Bull	17.01	17.91	-0.18	...
Stag	17.49	18.41	-0.32	...
Gilt Edged	18.00	18.95	-0.07	...
Deposit	15.86	16.69	...	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	24.58	25.87	...	...
Bear	25.49	26.83	+0.01	...
Owl	26.07	27.44	+0.04	...
Bull	21.83	22.98	-0.23	...
Stag	21.82	22.97	-0.40	...
Gilt Edged	22.60	23.79	-0.02	...
Deposit	20.47	21.55	...	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	530.67	...	-5.69	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	313.89	330.41	-2.60	...
N Amer Equity	255.37	268.81	-3.55	...
Far East Equity	363.83	382.98	-7.95	...
Fixed	283.38	298.29	-0.33	...
Cash Deposit	205.39	216.20	...	...
Property	155.06	163.22	...	...
Special Opp	321.15	338.04	+6.05	...
Managed	291.25	306.58	-3.16	...
Index-Linked Fd	185.03	194.77	-0.40	...

هكذا من الاصل

Shares close at best of the day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
523	380½	Abbey Nat	416	+ 11	4.7	14.1
314	233	Allied Irish	252	+ 3	5.0	9.7
278½	171	Aus New Z	202	...	6.1	
3300	2462½	Bank America	2825			
247	172½	Bank Scotland†	207	+ 3	3.2	11.7
649	487	Barclays	604½	+ 12½	3.4	18.6
319	246	Bk of Ireland†	287	+ 1	5.0	8.3
2912½	2262½	Comcorp	2625½	- 12½		
285½	203	Close Bros	229	...	4.1	
£150¾	£121½	Commerzbk	£129¾	- 315⁄	6.3	
1290½	1056½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1168½	...	0.5	
1344½	1270½	Deutsche Bk	1292½	- 3½	2.3	
1315½	787½	Espirito Santo	815½	...	4.2	4.1
90	59	First Nat Fin	59	...	3.2	
1549½	1152½	Fuji Bank Y	1367	+ 26½	0.4	
473	209	Hambros†	233	- 1	8.0	14.9
1113	660	HSBC	689½	+ 2½	4.4	10.1
1135	664	HSBC HK	690	+ 7	4.4	10.0
493	400	Joseph (L)†	410	...	5.4	11.9
693	424	Kleinwort Ben	523	+ 4	4.6	9.3
660	519	Lloyds	555	+ 9	5.2	10.9
620½	472	Nat Aust Bk	548	+ 11	6.7	
622	421	Nat West	504	+ 6	4.8	9.4
3300	2100	Ottoman Bank	2150	...	6.8	
79	53	Rea Bros	61	...	7.9	17.1
528	377½	Ryl Bk Scott	403	+ 6½	4.3	9.8
1674	1050	Schroders	1418	...	1.6	13.0
1458	1043	Schroders N/V	1293	...	1.8	11.8
114	75	Singer & Fried	85½	- 1½	4.6	11.0
359½	223	Stand Chart	282	+ 7	2.8	9.7
295	197	TSB	236½	+ 6	4.3	11.9
1012	569	Warburg SG†	713	+ 14	3.9	13.1
£105	8612½	Wells Fargo	9362½	+ 12½	2.9	
260	194	Westpac	220½	- 4	2.5	
390	203	Wintrust	213	...	6.0	14.2

DISTRIBUTORS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
127	106	ABI Ldc	107	...	4.9	
300	248	Acatt	298	...	2.9	16.1
580	253	Adam & Harvey†	580	+ 7	3.4	7.3
31	21	Alexanders	21	...	3.0	19.5
175	113	Appleyard	114	...	6.4	20.1
6	3½	Ass Br Eng	4½	...	1.4	58.8
578	495	BSG Group	520	+ 1	4.4	18.1
25½	17	Bearing Power	22	...	6.0	
405	249	Bletchley Mtr	265	...	4.9	10.9
40	28	Bogod 'A'	28	...	3.1	9.5
370	288	Brammer	345	...	4.7	19.2
31	15½	Bridgend Gpt	16	...	1.6	
99	78	Bri Fittings	82	...	3.4	
71	41	Brown & Lance	41			
57	35	Burndene	40	...	6.3	11.7
465	345	Caffyns	358	...	5.4	18.1
58	24½	Carpet Pict	26½	+ ½	5.2	14.7
130	84	Central Mtr	88	...	5.0	21.8
51	32½	Cook (DC)	39	...	3.7	11.8
342½	197½	Cowie	209	...	5.5	10.4
192½	127	Dag Motors	138	...	5.8	15.9
663	446	Denmans El	593	...	1.4	16.6
628	414½	Dixons	414½	- 5½	4.1	
589	443	Electrocomps†	466	+ 2	2.7	19.1
175	131	Electron House	151	...	5.6	15.6
283	225	Ellis & Everard	263	...	3.6	19.4
234	201	Eurodollar†	204	...	5.2	16.0
173	106	European Mtr	110	...	5.1	12.0
539½	395	Evans Halshaw	400	...	4.4	12.6
656	490½	Farnell Elect	518	+ 1	1.9	21.3
78	50	Fife Indmar	60	...	5.7	8.8
34	16	Gardiner	16	- ½	5.8	7.6
46	19	Glendevon	19½	...		21.5
90	60	Gowrings	71	...	3.5	21.5
76	59	Hallen Hldgs	72	...		56.2
161	122	Harris (Phillip)†	141	...	6.1	12.4
342½	266½	Henlys	272½	...	3.4	14.6
191	88	Holders Tech	110	...	8.2	10.0
138	110	ISA Intl	110	...	1.9	13.7
609	395	Inchcape†	434	+ 6	4.3	14.4
68	35	Jacks (Wm)	58	...		13.6
184	145	Kwik-Fit	157	...	3.2	18.0
573	291	Lex Service	292	...	5.7	11.2
282	162	Lookers	194	...	4.4	12.1
31	14	Mateys Grp	14½	...	2.2	
9	3½	Middlesex	8½	...		
440	279	Nortain	423	...	0.7	20.3
100	47	Normanber	91	...	1.8	38.4
175	152	PCT	152	...	6.1	14.7
310	232	Pendragon	255	...	3.7	16.8
239	161	Perry Gp	161	...	5.4	8.8
218	133	Quicks Group	133	...	4.5	14.9
163	97	REA	158	...	4.7	32.7
5¼	2¼	Reece	2¾			
24	4	Ross Gp	4½	...	5.6	
42	32½	SEP Ind	33½	- ½	4.0	
44	31	TLS Range	37	...	3.4	14.9
265	215	Time Products†	235	...	4.7	15.8
221	151	Vardy (Reg)	151	...	3.8	14.3
335	245	Wholesale Ftgs	245	...	6.0	
30½	13½	Wilts Gp	15	+ 3	4.2	8.4
71	39½	Widsnarry	71	+ 3	1.1	23.9
69	40	Wyko	58	+ 2	1.1	
96	61	Young (H)†	68	...	6.6	

BREWERIES

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
10½	1½	Ascot Hldgs	1½			
615	485	Bass	527	+ 10	5.1	12.9
259	248	Boddington	254	+ 2	4.1	13.7
196	168	Burtonwd Brwl	177	...	3.6	14.8
181	142	Eldridge P 'A'	160	...	3.3	
66	49½	Foster Brewing	56	+ 1	5.3	
493	345	Fuller Sm 'A'	345	...	2.9	14.2
571	399	Greenalls Grp	444	+ 7	3.8	21.6
584	452	Greene King	515	+ 1	3.2	14.2
285	238	Hardy Hansn	241	...	5.0	
170	135	Heavitree	150	...	3.4	13.5
3773	3125	Hall J	3413	...	1.8	18.8
246	195	Mansfield	236	...	2.5	14.3
314	256	Merston Thmpn†	299	+ 7	2.5	14.5
545	460	Morland†	468	- 2	2.9	
10½	6½	Pacemont	7	...	3.6	
303	209	Regent Inns	298	...	2.3	22.9
1665½	1000	SA Breweries†	1456½	...	2.0	22.7
591	477	Scot & New	502½	+ 11½	4.4	14.2
306	225	Vaux Group	226	+ 1	5.6	13.9
439	324½	Wetherspoon JD†	434	...	1.9	23.9
617	494	Whitbread†	547	+ 11	4.4	14.9
589	493	Wolverhmptn Dt	515	+ 1	3.4	13.6
194	148	Yates Brost	188	...	2.0	23.2
535	465	Young 'A'†	485	...	4.0	19.7

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
66	31	AAF Inds	34			
160	108	Airflow Stream†	159	...	3.1	15.6
639	474	Avon Rubber	479	...	4.4	
336	173	BBA	203	+ 3	2.8	
86½	54	BSG†	56½	...	7.2	34.7
18½	8½	Benson Group	8½	- ½	4.9	11.7
306	180	Boston	308	...	2.5	17.1
29½	17	Boustead	23	...	5.5	
22	11½	Carestalls	11½	- ½	1.6	11.7
332	275	ERF	324	...	1.6	
370	296	First Tech	370	...	1.8	21.2
600	510½	GKN	597	- 5	4.3	34.9
4387½	2337½	General Mtr	2412½	- 25	2.1	
1239	918½	Honda Motor	1086	- 5½	0.4	
432½	331	Laird	346	- 1	3.9	16.7
350	233	Londas	345			
239	158	Lucas†	198	+ 2	4.4	
84	50	Mayflower	50	...	3.5	20.3
124	61	Molsales	62	...		8.6
178	149	Sytone	161	...	3.9	17.6
261	157	T & N	158	...	8.6	13.8
338	263	Turner Hldgs†	316	+ 1	2.6	22.9

ELECTRICITY

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
894½	610½	East Midlands	810	+ 12	4.0	63.9
788	555	Eastern Grp	787	+ 1	4.1	18.6
793	534	London Elec	743	+ 5	4.3	10.4
871	635	Manweb	859	+ 4	4.0	10.1
845½	547	Midlands Elec	828	+ 8	3.6	12.6
520	404½	National Powert	471	+ 10	3.5	12.9
1049	589	Northern Elec	985	+ 1	3.5	12.2
421	329	Nthn Ireland	368	...	4.1	9.9
850	587	Norweb	807	+ 16	3.8	10.5
602	448	PowerGen†	508	+ 10	3.4	10.9
477	307	Hydro-Elect	328	+ 1	5.0	10.2
485	325	Scottish Power	337	...	4.8	10.5
589	358	Seeboard†	473	+ 9	3.3	12.5
851	591	Sth Wales	851	+ 16½	4.3	11.4
893	551	Sth Western	855	- 2	3.7	11.2
837	540	Southern Elec	796	+ 4	3.9	11.5
795	532	Yorkshire Elec†	887	+ 30	4.5	13.4

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
607	499	AB Food	563	+ 6	3.6	11.5
368	248	Acatos & Hutch	264	...		
74	40	Albert Fisher†	45	...	10.3	15.3
270	210	Banks (S C)	215	...	5.7	8.2
383	305	Barr (AG)	380	- 3	2.2	24.5
72	35	Barsons Crsp	38	...	7.1	
491	378	Booker†	402	+ 1	6.8	14.8
56½	48	Borthwick†	49	- ½	3.3	23.3
212	158	CPL Aromas†	203	...	1.8	19.4
545	392	Cadbury-Schw	400	+ 5	4.8	13.2
232	143	Carrs Milling	229	...	3.5	
167	130	Clarendon†	143	...	7.4	11.7
154	90	Dalepak	108	+ 1	1.7	
543	389	Dalgety†	418	+ 1	6.3	11.7
87	50	Daniel S	54	...	0.7	
294	210	Devro	215	- 1	3.6	14.5
101	52	Everest	65	...	4.8	24.4
8½	4½	Farringford	4½			
85	61	Finlay (James)†	66	+ 1	7.9	9.0
20½	13	Glenal	14	...	4.5	12.8
68	38	Grand Central	48			
194	104	Hazlewood Fdst	109	...	7.7	6.8
196½	151	Hillsdown†	176	+ 1	6.2	12.5
28	16	Hobson	22½			
111	89	JLI Group	89	...	6.9	12.3
408	313	Linton Park	348	...	6.3	9.9
127	85	Matthews (B)	118	...	2.9	14.2
181	180	Man ED & F	172	+ 2	6.4	9.3
246	205	Nichols (JN)	231	+ 2	3.5	14.8
271½	193	Nthn Foods	213	+ 1	5.3	10.8
14	9	Nobisdon Fo	10½			
46	24	Pascoe's	25			
81	62	Perkins Food	67	...	8.3	11.2
95	73	Somby Farm	84	...	3.3	8.5
122	71	Sims Food†	78	...	12.0	
487½	392	Tate & Lyle†	418	+ 7	4.3	9.6
238	145	Tesall	203	+ 1	2.5	16.5
434½	317	Unigate†	338	+ 3	6.5	9.2
1247	958	Unilever†	1138	+ 15	2.8	16.4
8118½	6496½	Unilever (NV)	7250	+ 6½	3.0	14.7
388	293½	Utd Biscuits†	325	+ 8	5.9	26.5
48	33	West Trust	37	...	8.8	25.6
133	99	Yorkshire Food	103	...	4.0	12.2

HEALTHCARE

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
544	325	AAH†	333	- 3	6.7	11.7
1141	850	Amersham†	852	...	2.3	17.9
81	43	Anagen	51			
297½	205	Assoc Nursg	208	...	1.4	12.1
393	243	Bespak	278	+ 3	4.6	14.3
10	5	Care UK	5½			
115	80	Celsis	74			
151	88	Chiroscience	93	+ 1		
47	38	Cortecs	38			
297	232	Community H	242	- 1	4.1	14.0
44	29	CrestaCare	29	...	3.3	
146	96	Enviromed†	113	+ 1	1.8	
110	82	Ferrana Groupt	86	...	3.3	
171	134	Goldsborough	148	...	2.0	
15½	9½	Greenacre	10	...	4.2	13.3
165	39	Intercare Gp	45	...	10.4	
325	280	Isoirn	280	...	2.1	
171	107	Life Sciences	128	...	4.0	12.7
152½	74	Lon Intl	85			
80	42	Nestor-BNA	46	...	8.6	11.4
3	1½	Premier Health	1½			
330	227	Quality Care	253	...	2.2	14.7
210	123	Scholl	132	...	6.1	12.7
383	275½	Seton Healthv	318	+ 5	2.7	16.2
83	44	Shield Diag	55			
159½	136½	Smith & Neph	152½	+ ½	4.1	16.9
21	9	Spectaleyes	9			
232	192	Tillotts	200	...	1.3	37.4
313	245	UniChem	259	...	3.3	13.9
400	294	West Hillcare	340	...	1.7	

PHARMACEUTICALS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
615	311½	Brit Biotech	547	- 1		
488	343	Cantab Pharms	345	- 3		
243	181	Celltech	236			
151	86	Chiroscience	93	+ 1		
47	38	Cortecs	38			
157	107	Fisons†	114	+ 1	3.0	
725	520	Glaxo	626	- 3	5.4	15.1
185	95½	Grampian Hdg	99	...	6.9	18.3
187	120	Medeva	171	+ 3	2.1	13.7
3	1½	Premier Health	1½			
330	227	Quality Care	253	...	2.2	14.7
395	242	Scotia	274			
83	44	Shield Diag	55			
465½	357½	SmithBeecham†	454	+ 9	3.4	17.7
421	322	Smithkline Utst	419	+ 5	3.7	16.3
731	498	Wellcome	685	+ 14	3.2	15.6
874	672	Zeneca	873	+ 15	4.0	17.5

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
683	528	Allied Domecq†	552½	+ 15½	5.1	14.9
459	358	Bulmer (HP)	388	+ 1	3.6	22.1
140	105	Burn Stewart	119	+ 1½	5.3	26.2
506	374	Grand Met	395½	+ 7½	4.5	18.1
457	421	Guinness	440	+ 10	3.7	14.5
457	353	Highland Dstl†	434	+ 8	2.1	19.8
222	127	Macallan-Glen	208	+ 1	0.7	54.8
710	365	Macdon Mrtn 'A'†	690	...	1.8	29.7
614	515	Matthew Clark	532	+ 1	4.2	12.5
250	72	Morydon Wt	73	...	4.3	
190	142	Taunton Cider	148	+ 1	5.8	11.3

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
486	353½	BT	376	+ 3½	5.8	13.1
543	352	Cable Wireless†	361½	+ 6½	2.9	14.8
176	108	Fibrenic Corn	164	...	0.6	56.2
1543	1146	Securicor	1495	+ 15	0.3	37.0
1069	785	Securicor 'A'	963	+ 15	0.4	23.8
892	606	Security Serv	778	+ 11	0.9	24.6
221	157½	Vodafone†	200	+ 2½	1.9	25.9

WATER

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
607	442	Anglian†	499	+ 9	5.9	11.3
385	293	Mid Kent Hdgs†	298	...	4.9	10.1
611	454	North West†	519	+ 13	5.7	7.4
751	508	Northumbrian†	728	+ 15	4.4	7.8
645	457	Severn Trent†	509	+ 8	5.8	7.1
1850	1525	South Staffs†	1845	...	3.7	11.7
675	459	South West†	505	+ 10	6.5	7.4
682	466	Southern	584	...	5.4	8.0
611	434½	Thames†	474	+ 16	6.1	7.1
744	546	Welsh†	624	+ 4	5.3	6.9
379½	361	Wessex	383	+ 10	5.2	7.5
630	458	Yorkshire†	492	+ 3	6.0	7.2

OTHER FINANCIAL

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
165	75	BWD	76	...	6.9	6.2
128	96	Baltic Pic	124	...	2.0	7.8
186	80	Berry Bch Mid	80	...	8.0	12.1
215	152	Blaic Inv	152	- 4		
154	106	Bowls Dolphin	113	...	6.4	8.3

MEDIA

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
365	270	Abbot Mead	337	...	2.2	30.5
355	198	Aegis	294	...	2.8	21.0
33	17¼	Aegis Gp	28	+ ½		
1½	½	Allied Radio	½			
26	13	BBB Design	13	...		6.7
235	162	Barbour Index	162	...	6.6	14.0
13½	5¼	Boxtale	5¾			
345	320	Black (A&C)	320	...	3.3	11.0
402	213	Blenheim Gp	244	...	5.3	9.1
305	133	Boxer TV	181	...	3.0	15.0
413	365	Bristol†	369	...	4.2	37.5
268	256	B Sky B	257	+ ½		

RETAILERS, FOOD

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
68	50½	ASDA Group	64	...	3.6	14.5
315	222½	Argyll†	252	+ 7	5.8	10.7
505	413	Brake Brost	456	...	2.0	16.4
43	24	Budgen	35	...	5.0	15.9
17	11½	Cullens	13½			
137	66	Dairy Farm Intl	72½	- 1½	5.1	9.8
394	344	Faerpak	350	...	2.4	19.3
60	32	Fitzwilton†	39	...	11.6	
592½	92	Fyffes	97	...	1.8	16.6
371	165	Gasell	170	+ 1	6.0	
1078	653	Greggs	1050	...	2.3	19.7
395	325	Greencore	395	+ 3	3.3	
211	139	Iceland Group	147	+ 3	3.3	9.1
656	523	Kwik Save†	536	+ 5	4.5	9.7
18	9	Marcton Retail	11½			
149	89	Morrison (W)	138	...	1.0	15.9
232	162	Nurdin Peack	162	- 1	5.1	9.0
146	89½	Park Foods	123	...	2.4	24.9
5¼	1½	Regins Hldt	1½			
480	342	Sainsbury J†	394	+ 8	3.4	13.9
255	200½	Tesco	237	+ 3	4.2	11.9
198	162	Thorntons	172	...	3.6	14.1
422	279	Watson & Philip	359	- 2	5.1	14.5

TRANSPORT

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
83	58	Air London	63	...	6.9	12.0
777½	619½	All Nippon Air	698½	- 6	0.3	
313½	228	Assoc Br Ports	271	+ 1	2.3	21.6
541½	440	BAA†	468	+ 5	2.5	18.3
130	103½	Badgerline	128	...	4.0	
456½	344	Br Airways†	350	+ 3½	4.0	9.7
79	27	Central Tran R	35	+ 2		
106	75	Clarkson (H)	94	...	3.3	23.6
179	140	Dart	152	...	3.2	14.7
592½	195	Eurotunnel Uts	273	+ 15		
87	50	Fisher (James)	50			
508	405	Forth Ports	468	...	2.1	21.9
238	156	GRT Bust	228	...	2.1	17.7
163	113	Go-Ahead	163	...	3.1	20.3
200	125	Goode Durant	197	+ 2	3.8	15.5
156	126½	Gold Stave	138	...	4.0	10.6
71	39	Jacobs (J)	67	...	3.1	
117	77	Lon D'Sea Fris†	78	...	6.2	1.8
534	368	Mersey Docks	389	- 2	3.8	18.8
201	145	NFC	182	+ 2	5.6	40.0
347	245	Neil Express	265	+ 1	3.4	15.4
348	244	Ocean Group	268	...	6.7	13.4
91	58	Ocean Wilson	68	...	5.9	9.8
743	587	P & O Dfd	610	+ 9	6.2	18.9
209	153	P & O 5.5%	182	+ 2	3.6	
102	84	Seacon	91	...	3.2	20.7
232	158	Stagecoach	227	...	2.4	22.4
131	85½	TNT	104	+ 1		
915	703	Tibbet & Britn	713	...	2.8	18.3
327	197	TDG	213	...	5.6	14.3
138	98	Ugland†	127	...	2.4	
160	75	Utd Carriers	92	+ 9	2.2	

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Worldwide 160.40 170.30 -0.40 0.74

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
081 658 9002
American Growth 89.17 94.67 +2.48
Amer Smll Cos 121.70 130.20 +4.40
Convertibles 52.83 56.50† -1.23 5.70
Eastern 260.00 280.50 +7.20 0.10
Equity Income 84.15 89.52 +0.26 4.90
European Growth 277.80 294.40 +0.30 1.08
Europe 203.70 218.60† -0.80 0.60
German Growth 67.85 72.08 +0.80 0.10
Global Bond 61.57 64.84 -0.03 6.40
Global Growth 119.40 127.40 +1.60 ..
Japan Growth 199.30 212.60 -1.50 .
Japan Sunrise 172.30 183.50 -2.40
Korea Trust 80.87 90.25 -0.80
Portfolio 124.60 133.30 +0.30 1.80
(Accum Units) 227.30 243.20 +0.60 1.80
UK Growth 78.53 83.54 +0.15 1.40
UK Smaller Cos 81.38 87.03 -1.12 1.80
Select Managers 70.37 75.33 -0.14 1.10

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
071 250 3300
Intl Gwth Port Inc 73.53 78.22 +0.86 ..
Special Oppor Inc 53.83 57.27 +1.68 .

BREWIN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD
071 236 6441
Special Sits 161.10 172.30 -0.30 1.63
Dividend 80.88 86.50 +0.92 3.99
Int Gth & Inc 200.70 214.70 -1.00 3.37
UK & Gen 41.69 44.58 +0.19 1.98
Fund of Funds 60.91 65.14 -0.39 ..

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
041 223 6020
Balanced Growth 97.48 103.15 -0.83 1.78
(Accum Units) 109.57 115.95 -0.71 1.78
Smaller Cos 94.97 100.49† -4.50 1.33
Higher Yield # 41.90 44.34 -0.12 4.93
American Gth Inc 67.64 71.58 +1.55 .
European Growth 126.24 133.59 -0.97 0.05
(Accum Units) 128.73 136.22 -0.99 0.05
Global Bond Inc # 25.88 27.33† .. 8.99
Mngd Ptflio Inc 39.48 41.77 -0.11 1.62
(Accum Units) 40.04 42.36 -0.12 1.63
Intl Spec Opps 108.41 114.72 +0.73 0.44
Pacific Gth 122.14 129.25 +3.23
Formerly LAS
UK General # 69.07 73.09† -1.57 3.54
(Accum Units) # 70.77 74.88 -0.57 3.54
Japan 62.68 66.33 -0.42 .
Gilt & Fixed Int # 93.26 95.17† +0.19 7.31

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
071 480 7216
Short Dated Gilt 64.50 66.34 +0.14 6.31

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
061 837 5060
Environ 143.00 152.20† -0.20 1.81
UK Growth 153.70 163.60 -1.40 2.50
UK Income 124.00 132.00 -0.50 4.67

CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0707 651 122
Can Gen Dist 175.80 186.30 +0.80 2.13
-do- Income Dist 102.70 108.90 +0.80 4.59
(Accum Units) 309.90 328.50 +2.30 4.59
Gilt & Fxd Int 39.43 41.60 +0.07 8.51

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
061 236 5685 Enq: 061 236 5685 Dlg: 061 236 5382
American & Gen 141.80 150.90 +2.80
European Inc 73.16 77.48 -0.17 0.43
Smaller Cos (4-1) 75.68 80.52 -0.61 2.00
Growth 393.80 419.00 +3.60 2.41
Income & Growth 378.80 403.00 +0.50 4.12
(Accum Units) 532.20 566.20 +0.80 4.12
Japan & Gen 71.78 76.17 -0.53
Master Portfolio £98.17 £102.07† +21.00 2.00
(Accum Units) £116.72 £121.35 +25.00 2.00
Special Sits 90.18 95.94 +0.12 2.37
High Yield £12.17 £12.55† +1.00 4.65

For Capital House see Newton

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
071 606 0708
Cazenove Portfolio 79.46 84.69 +0.59 2.31
American Portfolio 84.60 90.08† +2.02 1.22

European Portfolio 89.11 94.85 -0.68 0.88
Japanese Portfolio 64.79 68.79 -0.11
Pacific Portfolio 135.65 145.87† +2.95 0.69
UK Inc & Growth 71.96 77.19 +0.81 3.59
Utility & Bond 53.89 54.47 +1.08 7.07

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
071 588 1815
Inv Fund 644.05 651.35 . 4.74
Fxd Int Sec 148.35 148.40 . 9.77

CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD
071 332 5000
UK General Tst 61.44 65.36 +0.34 3.06

COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD
071 588 1815
Inc 638.69 643.24 . 4.74
Accum £26.89 £27.18 ...
Inc 120.70 120.95 . 9.59
(Accum Units) 185.70 186.17

CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD
071 837 7667
Intl Growth 117.20 127.92† -3.37
UK Income 101.36 110.67† -2.17 5.431

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
071 407 5966
Beckman Intl 72.83 77.30 -0.10 1.57
Buck Bio-Tech 22.60 25.19† -1.87
Acorn Enterpr Tst 144.59 152.30† -0.41 1.06
City Fin Assets 65.62 69.17 -2.06 1.32
City Fin America 78.75 82.89 -0.81
City Fin Intl 72.38 76.19† -0.93 0.95
City Fin Japan 163.76 172.38 -1.95
Friars Hse Cap 254.32 274.78 -4.20 2.0
Friars Hse Inc 185.29 197.12† -1.01 4.19
Buckley Wrld Grth 126.25 134.31 -1.74 0.09
Fairmont Cap Gth 131.08 139.45† -2.14
Fairmount Intl 145.26 152.91† -5.45
City Fin Pflio Inc 50.53 53.88† -1.98 4.46

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
071 711 0771 Admin: 0277 227 300
Emerging Markets 56.33 59.77 -0.68

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393
American Gwth 51.89 55.50 +0.81
Atlas Mngd Gwth 34.24 36.62 +0.11 0.42
Dragon Growth 65.57 70.13 +1.89 0.44
Equity High Inc 76.99 81.90† +0.56 4.17
(Accum Units) 103.51 110.12 +0.74 4.17
European Gwth 47.54 50.57 +0.21 0.64
Evergreen 28.73 28.61 +0.15 .
General Equity 77.76 82.50 +0.31 2.74
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc 24.14 25.38 +0.05 6.97
Japan Growth 50.72 54.25 -0.44
Pedigree Gwth 47.24 50.25 +0.40 2.81
Pad Sm Cos Inc 28.85 30.69 -0.28 1.28
(Accum Units) 29.97 31.88 -0.31 1.28
Retirement Inc # 24.40 25.95 +0.19 6.04
Special Sits 35.40 37.86 -0.16 2.03
UK & Overseas 45.46 48.36 +0.48 1.36

COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
0634 898 000
Capital 62.48 66.82 +0.47 2.38
Income 56.65 60.58 +0.35 4.36

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
081 686 6616
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)
Income Funds
Equity Inc 147.60 157.02 +0.26 5.71
Fixed & Convertible 38.45 40.90 +0.05 7.59
Monthly Inc Plus 47.31 50.33 +0.12 8.90
Preference Share 45.82 48.74 +0.06 7.52
Balanced Funds
High Yield 116.46 123.89 -2.38 7.52
Managed Fund 64.04 68.13 +0.44 3.09
UK Growth Funds
Smaller Cos 36.96 39.32 -0.50 1.73
(Accum Units) 42.29 44.99 -0.56 1.73
UK & General 72.97 77.63 +0.08 2.88
(Accum Units) 91.34 97.17 +0.10 2.86
UK Growth 129.59 137.86 +0.27 2.47
International Growth Funds
Europe Growth 179.28 190.72 +1.12 0.26
Far Eastern Gth 125.01 132.99 +1.93 .
Global Bond 74.75 79.43 -0.12 6.38
Japan Growth 120.07 127.67 -0.55
North Amer Grth 152.67 162.41 +2.79 .
Oriental Growth 73.36 78.04 +3.69 .
Worldwide Growth 60.98 64.87 +0.41 0.08
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)
Deposit Fund 92.28 92.26 -0.08 5.39
Homemaker Fund 72.95 77.61 -0.18 1.95
Quilter Fund 119.88 127.53 +0.44 3.07

CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD
0438 744 840
Growth Inc 54.62 58.10 +0.33 3.10
(Accum Units) 58.41 62.13 +0.35 3.10
High Income 31.75 33.77 +0.19 4.80
Japan 35.67 37.94 -0.04
Smaller Cos Inc 28.81 30.64† -0.23 2.60
Smaller Cos 30.51 32.45 -0.24 2.60
North American 30.59 32.54 +0.72 0.90
European 34.94 37.17 +0.08 0.50

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
071 407 5966
Consistent UT 29.27 31.40 -0.08 3.44

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358
Growth 131.90 140.40† -0.20 2.22
Income 67.17 71.46 +0.01 5.17
European 56.69 61.38† +0.06 1.15
Recovery 141.90 151.00 -2.90 2.38

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
071 283 9494
Equity Dist 756.08 763.68† -22.02 3.80

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
0277 690 370
Fellowship Tst 66.64 70.89 -0.29 1.39
Income # 221.00 235.10 -0.90 4.90
(Accum Units) # 544.40 579.10 -2.30 5.00
Smaller Cos 145.60 154.80 -0.50 0.87
(Accum Units) 177.50 188.80 -0.50 0.87
Inv Portfolio 73.12 77.78 -0.61 1.54
High Inc Port # 64.55 68.67 -0.29 5.10

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
071 410 0177
Euro Small Cos £14.58 £14.95† -13.10
Japan Small Cos £11.91 £12.14† -16.30
UK Small Cos £16.80 £17.56 -12.90
US Small Cos £14.74 £15.18† -15.40

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
071 377 8819
Disc Inc 192.70 202.90† . 2.67

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
031 315 2500
European Gwth 256.10 270.80 -0.10 1.03
New Asia 203.00 216.30 +4.40 0.16
Japan Growth 118.30 125.90 -1.80
Jap Smlr Cos 486.60 517.30 -9.90
Nth Amer 237.20 251.40 +5.30 0.94
Shdrd Asia Pac Mt 112.60 119.20 +2.70 0.38
UK Inc & Grth 198.10 211.50 +2.00 3.14

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
0242 577 555
UK Balanced Inc 129.20 137.40 -0.90 1.95
UK High Inc Inc 137.00 145.70 -1.30 4.94
(Accum Units) 175.40 186.60 -1.60 4.94
UK Pref & F I Inc 56.05 59.50 +0.17 5.27
Environml Opps 77.53 82.48 -0.97 1.14

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 090 526
American 113.30 120.20 +1.30 1.46
Convertibles # 19.58 20.78† -0.14 6.74
Equity Income # 116.80 124.10† +0.10 4.27
EuroFund 42.46 45.06 +0.08 0.44
Financial 43.32 46.03 -0.08 1.63
Growth & Inc # 216.50 230.00 +0.60 3.35
High Dist # 142.30 151.20† +0.20 4.98
International 375.10 398.50 +2.20 0.13
Int Cap Inc 80.39 85.42 -0.21 2.88
Latin American 45.21 48.04 -1.75
Pacific 79.39 84.35 +1.91 .
Preference Share 21.82 23.18 -0.17 7.12
Tokyo 224.30 238.30 -1.00
UK Smaller Cos 208.10 221.10 -0.70 1.24

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
071 242 0242
Bcon Trust 200.72 214.48 . 0.93

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
071 373 7261
Endurance Fd 190.40 202.60 -0.90 0.85

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0296 431 480
European 74.42 78.34 +0.10 1.72
Ethical Tst 42.24 44.46 +0.53 1.33
Far Eastern 288.49 303.67 +4.16 1.87
High Income 122.22 128.65† +1.44 5.02
Intl Growth 115.32 121.39 +0.62 1.38
North American 103.65 109.10 +2.94 1.39
Pelican 108.85 114.58 +1.24 3.32
Smaller Cos 65.61 69.27† -0.87 2.48
Special Sits 82.54 86.88 -0.93 2.61
Tst of Inv Tsts 177.52 186.86 +0.88 1.53

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
071 407 5966
Smaller Cos Inc 193.58 201.62 -1.89 1.45
Smaller Cos Acc 338.68 352.79 -3.31 1.45
Recovery 49.08 51.12 -0.62 1.39
Recovery Acc 49.59 51.66† -0.64 1.39

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
0392 412 144
Balanced 106.34 113.13† +0.63 6.15
Capital Growth 77.02 82.59 -0.27
Fd of Inv Tsts 43.28 46.17 +0.16 0.63
High Income # 42.75 45.81 -0.09 10.04
Warrant 53.61 58.27 -0.66 .
Zero Preference 35.79 37.97† +0.11

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
0273 220 707
Family Asset Tst 71.35 75.90 -0.32 2.38
Family Income Tst 45.20 45.20 -0.45 6.02
Family Trust 78.57 83.56 +0.17 1.16
United Charities 246.10 261.80 -0.40 3.19

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161
Cash Fund
Cash Fund 100.00 100.00 . 5.30
Bond Funds
Gilt & Fxd Int 26.44 28.54† -0.09 7.91
Intl Bond 26.91 27.92 -0.02 5.25
Income Funds
High Income 24.38 25.63† -0.14 5.35
Income Plus 104.50 111.20† -0.20 4.44
Amer Eq Inc 43.86 46.45 -1.00 1.50
European Income 39.61 42.12 -0.08 2.62
Far East Inc 60.21 64.05† +0.39 2.23
Global Convertible 21.67 23.12† -0.58 3.92
UK Div Gth 22.71 24.15 +0.05 1.98
Equity Funds
ASEAN 39.92 83.92 +2.33
American 223.20 236.60 +5.80
Amer Spec Sits 106.30 113.40 +2.20
Japan Smaller Cos 38.90 41.50 -0.70 .
European 156.10 166.00 -1.10 ...
European Opps 59.37 63.13 -0.45
Global Priv 23.22 24.66 +0.09 1.24
UK Growth 83.87 89.18 -0.73
Growth & Inc 131.50 139.90 . 2.61
Intl PEP 34.49 36.68 +0.22
Japan Spec Sits 90.12 95.95 -1.04
Japan 191.90 204.50 -2.50 ..
Managed Intl 257.80 274.50 +1.60
Moneybuilder 49.71 52.86 -0.07
Recovery 44.85 47.69 -0.53
South E Asia 137.90 147.10 +4.50 ...
Special Sits 471.10 501.00 -1.80
Specialised Funds
Cash Accum Units 107.46 107.46 +0.08 5.30

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
071 814 2700
Balanced # 128.60 131.70 -2.50 1.62
Inc Pflio # 80.84 82.39† -0.24 4.05
Cap Pflio 134.80 137.50 -0.20 0.75
General Opps 114.40 116.60† -2.00 3.59
Growth Inc 28.62 29.22† -0.03 1.82
Private Portfolio 376.60 384.60 -7.00 1.53

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Enq: 071 454 1434 Dlg: 0277 261 010
Hypo Foreign & Colonial
European 106.90 111.90 . 0.55
Emrg Asian 158.50 169.50 -0.50
High Income 20.61 21.93† . 10.26
Ocean Income 88.89 95.03† -3.63 3.01

UK Growth 101.00 108.20 +0.40 1.73
UK Income 97.95 104.50 +0.20 4.40
US Smaller Cos 277.60 296.90 +1.90 ...

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
071 407 5966
High Inc Eqty 45.19 47.52† -0.37 3.56
-do- Inv Tst Inc 71.64 75.33 -0.29 4.38
Intl Growth 68.12 71.63† +0.05 1.28
Investment Trust 85.68 90.09 -0.26 ...
UK Smaller Cos 75.73 79.63 -0.83 1.36

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
071 374 4100
American Growth 58.43 53.96 +0.91 .
(Accum Units) 50.43 53.96 +0.91 ..
Amer Smlr Cos 422.50 451.80 +0.60 ..
(Accum Units) 431.80 461.50 +0.50
Capital Tst 295.30 314.00 -2.00 1.51
(Accum Units) 421.50 448.30 -3.10 1.61
Cont Smlr Cos 54.89 58.84 -0.33 0.70
(Accum Units) 57.72 61.88 -0.34 0.70
Convertible 124.50 132.40 -0.90 5.87
(Accum Units) 245.60 261.20 -1.80 5.87
Emerging Markets 76.98 82.24† +0.21 ...
(Accum Units) 77.05 82.31† +0.21 ..
European 110.40 117.30 -0.30 0.15
(Accum Units) 115.70 122.90 -0.30 0.15
Extra Income 310.70 330.40 -0.10 4.10
(Accum Units) 459.80 489.80 -0.10 4.10
Financial 111.20 119.90 +0.90 0.39
(Accum Units) 117.10 126.20 +0.90 0.30
Gilt Trust 60.97 62.88 +0.25 6.37
(Accum Units) 85.15 87.81 +0.34 6.37
Health Fund Inc 116.80 124.70† +0.60 ..
(Accum Units) 116.80 124.70† +0.60 ...
Income & Growth 176.90 188.10† -0.70 3.32
(Accum Units) 287.00 294.00† -1.00 3.32
Intl Growth 329.80 353.00† +2.70 ..
(Accum Units) 377.20 403.10† +3.00 ...
Japan & Gen 175.30 187.90 -0.60
(Accum Units) 177.00 189.80 -0.60
Managed Port Inc 96.71 103.90 -0.10 0.45
(Accum Units) 104.60 110.10 -0.10 0.45
Monthly Income 154.60 164.40† -0.20 4.08
Quarterly Income 49.84 53.12† -0.01 4.82
(Accum Units) 53.14 56.52† -0.01 4.82
Recovery 316.60 338.50 -0.80 0.13
(Accum Units) 372.80 398.60 -0.60 0.13
UK Growth 49.72 53.12 +0.01 2.79
(Accum Units) 51.43 54.94 . 2.79

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Dealing: 0705 881330 Enqs: 0705 881340
FP Equity Dist 351.80 374.00† -1.10 2.78
-do- Accum 742.50 789.80† -2.40 2.78
FP Euro Gth Dist 133.90 142.00 +0.10 0.21
-do- Accum 139.20 148.00 .. 0.21
FP Fixed Int Dist 128.10 135.30† +0.30 6.99
-do- Accum 234.80 248.00† +0.60 6.99
FP Intl Gth Dist 88.10 93.72† +0.32 0.59
-do- Accum 92.13 98.01† +0.34 0.59
FP Nth Amer Dist 177.00 187.40 +3.10 1.19
-do- Accum 194.10 205.60 +3.40 1.19
FP Pac Basin Dist 299.30 318.30 +3.50 0.19
-do- Accum 305.30 324.70 +3.50 0.19
Stewardship Dist 307.00 326.50† -1.40 2.16
-do- Accum 375.30 399.20† -1.70 2.16
Stewdshp Inc Dist 67.90 72.29† -0.01 3.84
-do- Accum 87.56 93.13† -0.01 3.84
N Am Stshp Dist 91.38 97.85 +1.01 0.77
-do- Accum 97.39 103.60 +1.10 0.77
FP Managed Portfolio Service
Capital Gwth Acc 102.30 108.80 -0.40 0.91
Open Cap Gth Acc 105.10 111.80 -0.80 0.0
Cap Gth Inc Inc 98.61 104.90 -0.20 1.78
Cap Gth Inc Acc 100.20 106.50 -0.30 1.78
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic 101.30 107.70 -0.30 1.69
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac 102.80 109.30 -0.30 1.69
NM Unit Trusts
American 41.56 44.21† +0.73 1.33
Australian 316.60 339.60 +1.70 0.0
Conscience 65.52 69.92 -2.14 0.86
European 189.00 201.00 +0.48 0.82
(Accum Units) 204.40 217.40 +0.50 0.82
Extra Income 67.17 71.68† +0.23 6.19
Gilt & FI 55.86 59.06 +0.09 6.46
Gold 50.64 53.80 +2.50 0.0
Income 49.74 53.05 +0.31 4.50
(Accum Units) 161.10 171.80 +1.00 4.50
Intl 31.00 33.08† +0.38 0.72
(Accum Units) 44.97 47.99 +0.54 0.72
Jap Smaller Cos 357.00 380.80 -8.40 0.0
Sing & Malaysian 244.60 262.30 +11.40 0.0
Smaller Cos 28.63 30.78† +0.35 0.85
Special Sits 34.15 36.72 +0.46 1.94
Sterling Deposit 100.90 100.90 . 4.80
Tokyo 86.89 92.68 -0.08 0.0
UK Equity 162.40 173.20 +2.60 2.76
(Accum Units) 310.90 331.60 +4.90 2.76
US Smaller Cos 102.30 109.40 +0.20 0.0

GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0345 581 106/7
GANDA 216.80 229.00† -1.70 2.65
Cash 49.48 50.22† +0.03 4.02
Growth Portfolio 73.27 77.67 -0.25 1.04
Income Portfolio 59.36 62.77† -0.02 4.73

GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD
071 710 4567 Dealing: 071 626 9431
Amer Spec Sits 168.00 179.70 +1.90 ..
European 518.30 552.50 +0.30 0.49
Far East & Gen 258.90 276.50† +2.00 .
Germany 109.20 115.90 +1.80 ...
Income Inc 142.50 152.50 -1.30 4.75
(Accum Units) 151.00 161.50 -1.40 4.75
International 313.10 334.80 -6.20 0.21
Intl Income 74.76 79.34† +0.78 4.41
Japan & General 390.30 415.40 -5.20 .
Foreign Securities 67.56 72.26 -0.04 .
Smllr Cos Dvs Inc 44.52 47.62 -0.48 5.01
UK Capital (Inc) 156.80 167.70 -3.00 1.13
UK Spec Sits 78.82 84.30 -1.42 0.73
US & General 125.40 133.60 -2.40 .
Wwide Spec Sits 148.40 158.80 -1.80 .

GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS
071 782 2000 Dlgs only: 0277 264 421
UK Growth Funds
British Growth 44.19 47.09 +0.16 2.48
Cash Trust 135.68 135.69† +0.10 5.20
Practical Inv Inc # 109.39 116.99 +0.26 3.51
(Accum Units) # 248.71 266.00 +0.60 3.51
UK Index 137.57 139.61 +0.55 3.30
UK Smaller Cos 116.16 124.23 +2.55 1.15
Income Funds
Preference Share 24.98 26.72 -0.12 9.28
High Income 31.51 33.70† -0.16 5.31
UK Equity Income 128.22 137.13 +0.97 3.80
Global Bond 27.03 28.04 -0.38 5.35
International Funds
Emerging Markets 54.42 58.20 +0.03
Global Inc & Gth 126.12 134.85 +0.58 2.07
Gold & Intl Res 109.36 116.96 -0.42 .
Global Utilities 125.99 135.00 +1.15 1.24
Overseas Funds
American 132.13 140.95 +2.87 1.02
European 92.82 98.45 +0.07 1.03
Euro Sel Opps 132.80 141.32 +0.13
Amer Emerging 89.55 95.78† -0.06 .
Hong Kong 126.76 135.62 -5.95 1.68
Japan 241.94 256.11 -0.15
Pacific Growth 207.41 221.83 +5.10 1.43
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds
Managed Equity 201.13 201.13 +0.73 2.14
Long Term Bal 219.87 219.87 +0.61 2.92
Med Term Bal 187.61 187.61 +0.44 3.45
UK Equity 223.72 223.72† +1.23 2.71
UK Emerging Cos 133.51 133.51† -1.17 3.33
American 215.90 215.90 +5.27 1.40
Japan 126.92 127.49 +0.06 ..
European 240.76 240.78 +18.27 1.08
Index Linked Gilt 163.38 163.38† +0.49 2.99
Fixed Interest 153.12 153.12† +0.26 6.87
Amer Emergng 235.15 235.15 +2.60 .
Pacific 226.83 226.63† +5.36 0.87
Emerging Mkts 160.83 160.83 -1.83 0.66
Index Strat Japan 149.99 149.99 -3.25 0.25
-do- Pacific Rim 168.46 168.46 -4.19 1.31
-do- Cont Europe 138.50 138.50 -2.60 1.84
Index Strat USA 122.69 122.69 -0.28 2.41
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds
Managed Equity 94.99 101.05 +0.42
Med Term Bal 89.25 94.94 +0.22 .
Long Term Bal 98.98 105.30 +0.30 .
UK Equity 103.33 109.92 +0.60
UK Emerging Cos 62.57 66.56 -0.58 .
American 100.11 106.50 +2.60 ..
Japan 60.94 64.83 -0.26 .
European 100.32 106.72 +0.13
Fixed Interest 77.13 82.05 +0.14
Index Linked Gilt 72.44 77.06 +0.23 ..
Deposit 79.45 84.53 +0.07 .
Broker Unit Trusts
Berkeley Intl Grth 115.50 122.90 -1.21 .
Berkeley Income 105.20 111.90 -1.22 2.19
BWH Intl 132.04 138.99 -1.01 0.61
Bsc66 Gth Port Inc 57.58 60.77 -0.40 1.25
-do- Inc Port Inc 53.95 56.94† -0.25 3.40
-do- Wwide Port 50.62 53.42 -0.45 0.50
Shaw Utilities 57.70 60.90† +2.72 2.48

GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT
GAM Sterling Management 071 493 9990
& Intl Inc 521.28 554.55 -3.11 1.58
(Accum Units) 571.79 608.29 -3.40 1.58
European Inc 135.17 143.80 -2.11 0.98
Arcalgaro Inc 140.29 149.54 -1.20
N America Inc 299.07 318.16 +0.11 ..
Far East Inc 342.31 364.18 -4.42
(Accum Units) 354.53 377.16 -4.58 .
UK Dvld Inc 170.86 181.77 +2.05 1.46

GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD
071 378 7979 Dealing: 071 407 7888
UK Equity Inc 81.66 85.97† -0.03 4.83
UK Small Cos 44.78 47.90 -0.03 0.92
British Growth 48.98 51.85 -0.12 2.48
American Gwth 151.36 161.88 -0.15 .
Japan Gwth 76.01 81.30 -1.47 .
Greater China 187.23 200.24 +2.47 .
Pacific Strategy 160.46 171.61 +1.89 ..
European Gwth 79.53 85.05 -0.26 0.12
Intl Growth 138.58 148.21† -1.47
US Index (£) 72.71 13.39 +0.29 4.00
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind 70.61 74.70 +0.21 2.23
Monthly Income 37.04 39.49† +0.23 10.00
MIS Unit Trust Dealing: 071 865 0033
Gvt UP Index (£) 9.33 9.82 -0.11 3.60

GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
071 488 1212
Small Cos 86.35 91.86 -4.23 1.28

GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD
071 538 9668
Cash 137.30 137.30 +0.10 3.32
European 449.30 480.00† -4.50 0.11
Gilt & Fixed 124.70 132.40 +0.10 5.30
Growth Equity 304.60 325.40† -2.80 2.02
Income Trust 120.00 128.20† -2.50 3.08
International 172.30 184.00 +1.20 .
Japan Trust 128.20 136.90 -0.20
Nth American 240.90 257.30 +5.10 0.17
Pacific 530.90 567.10 +15.30 .
Guardhill 452.50 483.40 -5.30 2.01

GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD
071 522 2123
EMU Trust 97.85 101.56† -0.56 7.10
Global High Inc 98.63 102.38 -0.20 8.19
Prem Fixed Int 100.87 104.70 +0.22 8.48
Eqty & Bond Inc 97.23 103.38 ... 5.20
European Growth 95.93 102.00 -0.80 .
Intl PEP Trust 56.52 60.10 -0.27 .
High Income 113.24 120.41† +0.64 4.33
-do- Accum 154.91 164.71 +0.87 4.33
Recovery 345.00 366.80 -4.90 1.69
(Accum Units) 396.00 421.10 -5.60 1.69
St Vinc High Inc 118.74 120.52 -1.48 7.27
Tmp Bar Emer Co 234.50 249.30† -1.10 1.50
Tmp Br Sm Co In 349.00 355.30 -2.40 2.07
Glob Prv Tst 89.13 94.78 -0.15 1.53
(Accum Units) 89.97 95.66 -0.14 1.53
Inc Share Tst 87.06 92.56† +1.58 8.09

HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 0277 227 300 Dealing: 0277 690 390
Model Ptflio 187.20 198.60 -2.70 2.86
Smaller Cos 30.97 32.95 -0.67 0.94

HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT
Enquiries: 0277 263 290 Dealing: 0277 234 772
UK Funds
Special Sits 275.52 294.80 -1.66 1.61
Best of British 59.08 62.80† +0.24 2.90
UK Smaller Cos 117.59 126.40 -0.71 1.52
High Income Funds
Income & Growth 256.30 272.94† +0.26 3.45
(Accum Units) 688.94 733.69 +1.47 3.45
High Income # 300.34 321.06 -0.42 4.21
Extra Income # 262.40 279.05† +1.55 5.97
Pref & Gilt 45.41 48.60 +0.13 8.98
International
International 261.41 278.21 +2.60 0.56
Global Bond 50.79 54.03† +0.05 6.32
Family of Funds 77.11 82.47 -0.52 0.22

Global Tech 144.67 154.72† +0.49 .
Overseas Funds
Asian Enterprise 171.14 183.01† +4.53 0.25
European 441.47 487.99 -1.31 0.57
European Income 78.85 81.37 -0.13 2.56
Euro Smlr Cos 140.74 150.56 -0.99 0.12
Eur Sp Sits 85.78 89.35 -0.59 0.14
(Accum Units) 70.44 74.93 -0.63 0.14
Japan Trust 221.35 236.56 +0.22
Japan Special Sits 247.13 263.05 -1.79 ...
Pacific Smlr Cos 255.50 271.80 +5.30
North American 221.26 235.05 +4.16 0.61
American Smaller 95.24 101.81 +1.70 ..
Henderson TR Pension Portfolio
American Growth 50.98 54.03 +0.79 ...
Eur Sp Sits 56.67 60.07 -0.50
General Growth 40.26 42.67 +0.15 .
Global Tech 58.59 58.98 +0.79 .
Income Growth 39.54 41.91 +0.08
Japan Growth 27.09 28.71 +0.02 .
Smaller Cos 20.99 22.24 -0.12 ..
Special Opps 27.95 29.62 -0.15 ...
Worlds Sp Sits 47.66 50.51 +0.50 ..

HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS
081 686 4356
British 91.70 98.67† +0.21 1.65
Capital 162.80 174.10 +1.40 1.52
Dollar 316.70 340.80 +8.90
Enterprise Gth 308.20 329.60 -0.10 1.78
European 215.50 230.40 -0.90
Far East 305.40 328.80† +8.80 0.18
Financial 763.80 818.80 +1.20 1.35
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc 24.89 26.62 -0.04 7.81
High Yield 97.80 103.70† +0.30 4.38
Income & Growth 132.60 141.80 +1.20 3.63
International 242.70 259.50 +1.60 .
Japanese General 207.20 221.60† -0.20 .
Japan Tech 83.44 89.24 -0.71 .
Natl Resources 72.45 77.48 +0.49 ..
Portfolio 68.28 73.02 +0.20 1.51
Smaller Cos 118.90 127.10 -1.00 1.29
Special Sits 140.90 150.60 +0.70 1.55
UK Emerging Cos 86.33 92.33 +0.18 0.54
US Smaller Cos 76.61 81.93 +2.28 .

HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Advisers: 0800 181 180 Inv: 0800 289 505
UK Funds
Balanced # 94.29 100.60† +0.80 6.18
Capital 541.40 577.80 +4.20 2.59
Income # 527.50 563.00 +5.10 5.15
Footsie Fund 49.43 52.30† +0.33 2.68
Trade Index 103.09 109.92 -2.42 2.05
UK Index 130.30 139.10 +0.70 3.22
International Funds
American Growth 457.70 488.50 +11.90 0.65
American Index 187.70 200.20 +4.00 1.29
European Growth 105.10 111.80† -0.60 0.02
Eurotrack 100 148.00 157.40 +1.40 0.89
Global Bond 20.48 21.64 -0.07 5.97
Japan Growth 280.40 298.80 -1.40 .
Japan Index 80.45 85.86 +0.12 0.09
Japan Smlr Cos 34.88 37.22 -0.38 .
International High Growth Funds
Asian 52.71 56.25† +1.78 0.20
Hong Kong Gwth 92.06 98.25 +4.23 1.02
Spore & Mlysa Gth 72.68 77.57 +3.97 .
Tiger Index 196.20 209.40 +5.10 0.21

INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD
071 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733
UK Specialist Trusts
UK Smaller Cos 28.13 29.19 -0.23 1.11
General Funds
Managed 67.56 70.12† +0.01 2.50
Rupert Child Fnd 78.48 81.46 +0.34 2.54
UK Growth 55.24 57.33† +0.19 2.51
High Income Funds
Cashbox (Dist) 58.55 58.55 +0.03 4.58
Cashbox (Acc) 58.70 58.70 +0.03 4.58
UK Extra Inc 81.75 84.85 +0.07 5.95
Gilt & Fixed Int 35.46 36.25† -0.30 7.99
UK Inc & Gwth 37.81 39.24 +0.28 4.13
UK Income 312.00 323.80 +0.80 3.81
Overseas Growth Funds
American Growth 46.48 48.14 +1.65 0.37
Amer Smllr Cos 103.90 107.80 +1.90 ..
(Accum Units) 105.00 108.90 +1.80 ..
Europe Gth 141.80 148.90 -0.40
(Accum Units) 146.60 151.80 -0.50
Euro Smaller Cos 26.51 27.51 -0.35 .
French Growth 73.34 76.12 -0.82 0.01
Accum Units 78.57 81.55 -0.98 0.01
H Kong & China 74.41 77.29 +2.93 1.82
Intl Growth 55.07 57.16 +0.37 0.63
(Accum Units) 55.54 57.65 +0.38 0.63
Japan Gth 34.33 35.63 -0.41 .
Accum Units 34.33 35.63 -0.41 ..
Japan Smaller Cos 41.32 42.88 -1.10 .
Glob Emg Mkts 106.80 110.80 -0.40 .
Accum Units 107.60 111.60 -0.40 .
SE Asia 310.30 322.00 +6.40 0.32
Overseas Income Funds
Intl Bond 51.00 52.54† -0.11 6.08

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
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American Cap 128.90 137.00 +5.30
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UK Growth 51.49 54.77 +0.51 0.98

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European 112.50 119.24 -0.09
Far Eastern 303.20 322.50 +1.40

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Dealers: 071 956 7354
Income Trusts
Extra Income 47.14 50.15† +1.06 7.88
Gilt Yield 111.90 118.10† . 6.78
Global Income 204.80 217.90† +2.80 4.18
High Yield 131.20 139.60 +2.70 6.31
(Accum Units) 383.60 416.70 +8.40 6.31
Smlr Cos Div 49.56 52.72† -0.22 3.01
Capital Growth Trusts
Amer Smllr Cos 82.10 87.34 +0.64
North American 70.18 74.66† +1.27 0.20
European Special 91.73 97.58 +0.45 0.15
European 143.90 153.10† +0.20 0.39
(Accum Units) 189.00 201.10† +0.40 0.39
General 256.20 272.60 +0.90 3.30
Japan 413.30 429.70 -2.00 .
Japanese Special 237.70 252.80 -3.90
Master Accum 224.80 238.90 +0.20 0.58
Pacific 324.50 345.20 +4.10
(Accum Units) 380.50 404.80 +4.80
Smaller Cos 104.90 111.60† -0.60 0.62
UK Eqty Growth 37.74 40.15 +0.55 1.68

KNIGHT WILLIAMS PRTFOL MGRS
071 629 1583
Global Inc & Gth 59.03 62.79 +0.24
Inv Trust 64.87 69.01 -0.03
Cautious Inc/Gth 55.65 59.20 -0.17 0.80
High Inc Acc 52.81 56.18 -0.10 3.90

L & C UNIT TST MGMT LTD
071 588 2800
Income 556.50 567.90 -8.30 5.42
Intl & General 392.80 400.80 -11.20

LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT
071 407 5966
Bridge Income 244.90 260.53† +0.87 5.76
Inc & Growth Inc 53.58 57.0 +0.21 4.81
Smaller Cos 53.39 56.50 -0.63 1.45

LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD
Enq: 0452 371 500 Dlg: 0452 371 623
Growth Trust 230.40 245.10† -1.30 2.22
High Income 103.40 110.00 +0.70 4.41
International 95.37 101.40 +0.10 0.60
Recovery Trust 59.84 63.78† -0.28 1.59
European Trust 77.10 82.02 -0.90 1.06
Japanese Trust 43.29 46.05 -0.21
American Trust 81.19 86.37 +1.85
Managed 64.06 68.14 -0.03 0.56
Cash 51.07 51.07 +0.03 4.89

LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD
071 374 0916
UK Cap 338.70 344.60 -2.30 2.67
UK Inc/Gth 365.80 371.40 +0.30 3.49
UK Income 253.50 257.70 -1.10 4.49
UK Sm Cos 225.60 234.20 -2.30 2.03
Euro Gwth 116.10 116.98 -2.40
N Amer Gwth 75.13 76.02 +1.15 0.12
Japan Growth 66.25 66.95 -0.79
Money Mkt 121.63 121.63 +0.18 2.260

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0277 227 300 Dealing: 0277 690 395
Equity Dist 444.20 472.50 +3.40 2.77
(Accum Units) 873.60 929.40 +6.70 2.77
Equity Income 93.27 99.22 +0.50 4.12
UK Tactical Allocn 52.65 55.91† +0.45 3.18
European 108.90 115.90 +0.40 1.01
Far Eastern 227.30 241.80 -1.30 .
Fixed Interest 49.60 52.77† +0.10 8.84
Gilt 86.45 91.68 +0.24 8.98
Global Growth 75.23 80.03† -0.35 0.10
Intl Bond 50.05 53.16 -0.11 5.30
Japanese 75.26 80.06† -1.01
North American 139.90 148.80 +2.80 1.06
Pacific Growth 109.30 116.80 +1.80 0.14
UK Index 58.54 61.78 -0.30 3.27
UK Recovery 86.31 91.82 -0.49 1.75
UK Smaller Cos 116.20 123.60 -1.70 1.53
US Index 55.98 59.08† +1.18 1.91
European Index 69.49 73.34 +0.38 1.64
Japan Index 41.81 44.13 -0.03
Worldwide 80.53 85.67† +0.25 1.49

LINCOLN NATIONAL
081 902 8876 Dealing: 0800 262 621
Growth 47.38 50.67 +0.32 2.07
Income 56.77 60.72 +0.37 2.97
Far East 53.26 56.96 +0.81
North American 84.96 90.85 +3.01
Global 87.80 93.90 +0.73 0.16
European 81.32 86.97 +0.11 0.29
Japan 108.40 115.90 -0.60
Intl Currency Bd 55.35 58.74 -0.42 5.03
SE Asia 101.70 108.80 +2.00
UK Cap Growth 86.97 93.02 +0.17 1.39

LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD
Helpdesk: 0634 834 339 Dealing: 0634 834 313
Balanced 317.10 337.40 -2.20 3.10
-do- Acc 721.30 767.40 -4.90 3.10
Cont Euro Gth 59.72 62.87† +0.24 0.69
-do- Acc 63.61 67.17 +0.25 0.69
Extra Inc 240.10 255.50† -1.10 4.36
-do- Acc 623.50 663.40 -3.00 4.36
German Gth 118.10 124.40 +1.60 0.13
-do- Acc 123.90 130.50 +1.70 0.13
Growth Port 511.60 544.30 +5.50 0.25
-do- Acc 520.10 553.40 +5.70 0.25
Income 452.60 481.50 -8.50 4.07
-do- Acc £12.16 £12.94 -21.00 4.07
Income Port 490.40 521.80 -1.00 4.35
-do- Acc 515.50 548.50 -1.00 4.35
Japan Growth 104.30 111.00 -0.50 ..
-do- Acc 104.70 111.40 -0.50
Master Trust 54.76 58.26 -0.08 1.58
-do- Acc 61.13 65.04 -0.09 1.58
N American Gen 169.00 179.80 +2.70 0.70
-do- Acc 195.20 207.70 +3.20 0.70
NAm Sm Co Acc 126.89 134.90 +1.70 ...
-do- Acc 129.40 137.70 +1.70 ..
Pacific Basin 241.80 258.40 +7.90 0.61
-do- Acc 255.70 272.10 +8.50 0.61
Small Cos Rec 336.90 354.70 -2.60 2.10
-do- Acc 450.50 474.30 -3.50 2.10
UK Growth 78.92 83.96 -1.82 2.81
-do- Acc 94.85 101.00 -2.00 2.81
Worldwide Gth 298.60 317.70† +1.30 0.47
-do- Acc 440.50 468.70 +1.90 0.47

LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT
0392 282 673
American 61.05 65.50 +0.69 0.10
General 78.90 85.72† -0.80 2.40
Income 62.35 66.89 -0.32 5.50
International 61.35 65.83 +0.20 0.40
Japan 58.24 62.49 -0.36 .
Tst of Inv Trusts 65.63 70.41 +0.06 1.30

M & G SECURITIES
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 0245 390 390
Amer & General 370.20 391.50 +4.30 0.69
(Accum Units) 458.50 486.00 +5.20 0.69
Amer Recovery 422.40 446.70† +5.20 0.56
(Accum Units) 484.70 512.60 +6.00 0.56
Amer Smlr Cos 118.90 125.70 +1.80 0.10
(Accum Units) 121.50 128.40 +1.80 0.10
Australasian 159.80 169.00 +2.00 1.91
(Accum Units) 193.60 204.80 +2.50 1.91
Capital 774.60 819.10 -7.10 2.69
(Accum Units) 880.00 930.50 -8.10 2.69
Charifund 646.20 652.70 -3.00 5.87
(Accum Units) £29.86 £30.16 -13.00 5.87
Commodity 383.50 405.50 +1.10 0.52
(Accum Units) 562.30 594.60 +1.60 0.52
Compound Gth 874.90 925.30 +9.10 3.07
(Accum Units) 917.10 969.80 +9.60 3.07
Dividend 36.90 39.00† -0.30 4.73
(Accum Units) 154.80 163.60 -1.60 4.73
Equity Income 324.40 343.00 -2.70 5.13
(Accum Units) 412.80 436.50 -3.40 5.13
Euro & General 478.50 506.00† -4.00 1.01
(Accum Units) 605.30 640.00 -3.90 1.01
Euro Dividend 66.40 70.20 -0.50 3.77
(Accum Units) 79.20 83.70 -0.60 3.77
Extra Yield 389.30 408.40 -3.00 4.97
(Accum Units) £11.98 £12.57 -9.40 4.97
Far Eastern 345.10 364.90 +8.20 0.78
(Accum Units) 457.20 483.40 +10.80 0.78
Fund of Inv Tsts 592.50 626.60† +13.00 2.00
(Accum Units) £11.08 £11.70 +24.30 2.00
General 56.50 59.69† -1.50 3.97
(Accum Units) 158.90 168.20 -1.00 3.97
Gilt Income 58.74 58.85† -0.24 8.13
(Accum Units) 161.08 161.38 +0.66 8.13
Gold 65.00 68.70 +0.40 0.91
(Accum Units) 76.70 81.10 +0.50 0.91
High Income 26.50 28.00† -0.70 4.91
(Accum Units) 106.30 112.40 -0.80 4.91
Intl Growth 74.00 78.30 +0.20 1.07
(Accum Units) 128.90 136.40 +0.30 1.07
International Inc 93.10 98.50 +0.50 4.70
(Accum Units) 138.20 146.30 +0.80 4.70
Japan & Gen 47.70 50.40† -0.20 .
(Accum Units) 51.20 54.10 -0.20 ...
Japan Smlr Cos 163.40 172.80 -2.30 ...
(Accum Units) 164.50 174.00 -2.30
Managed Income 25.10 27.40† . 4.12
Midland 58.40 61.80 -0.40 3.27
(Accum Units) 195.20 206.40 -1.40 3.27
Pension Ex 865.40 887.10 -4.70 4.59
Recovery 38.80 41.00† -0.70 2.76
(Accum Units) 63.70 67.30 -0.80 2.76
Second General 66.20 70.00† -1.50 3.82
(Accum Units) 171.90 181.80 -1.00 3.82
Smaller Cos 65.40 69.20 -0.30 3.21
(Accum Units) 128.40 135.90 -0.70 3.21
Sterling FB Inc 24.15 24.24 -0.07 8.66
Treasury 25.04 25.09† -0.03 5.57
Trustee 38.90 41.10 -0.10 4.70
(Accum Units) 156.70 165.90 -0.40 4.70

MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Dealing: 0277 261 010 Enq: 0903 204 631
European Growth 75.69 80.52 -0.33 1.51
Intl Bond 60.24 63.35† -0.16 6.10
Intl Equity Growth 67.12 71.38† +0.52 0.64
N Amer Growth 89.18 94.87 +2.33 0.56
Special Sits Growth 20.02 21.29 -0.16 1.94
UK Growth 344.70 366.60 -3.60 2.94
(Accum Units) 449.60 473.20 -5.10 2.94

MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01620 825867
Balanced Fd # 912.16 952.41† -4.02 3.35
Income # 928.20 942.70 -3.60 4.25

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
031 222 4242
Maldon General 134.50 138.60 . 4.41

MANULIFE MANAGEMENT LTD
Dealings: 0438 747 414
Growth Units 184.20 197.00 -0.20 2.70
Gilt & Fxd Int 166.90 175.80 +0.50 6.78
Intl Growth 199.00 211.80 +0.90 0.28
North American 172.20 183.80 +3.00 0.53
Far East 258.60 276.60 -4.80 1.15
UK Smaller Cos 164.10 175.50 -1.40 2.08
European 76.50 81.35 -0.56 0.22
Japanese Growth 48.17 51.19 -0.18
High Income 175.60 187.70 -0.60 4.81

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0244 680 066
M & S Inv Pfolio 144.50 152.10 +0.90 2.24
-do- Accum 164.60 173.30 +1.10 2.24
UK Sel Pfolio 122.60 129.10 +0.90 2.54
-do- Accum 142.50 150.00 +0.90 2.54

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
0204 364 842
Managed Tst 62.69 66.69 -0.36 4.03

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
031 479 4848
Intl Income 67.00 71.13† -0.54 4.77
European 76.24 80.93 -0.82 0.34
Income # 69.47 73.75† -0.15 5.80
Nth American 57.16 60.68 +0.88 0.69
Far East 164.50 174.60 +2.00 .
Japan 56.64 60.13 -0.27 .
Emging Mkt 109.40 117.00 -0.80
Intl Growth 104.60 111.30 +0.10 0.72
UK Growth 82.67 87.97† -0.36 0.84
UK Smll Co 44.17 46.83† -0.42 0.85
Asian Opps Fd 37.62 40.23 +0.86 0.13

MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD
071 407 5966
Income 397.31 423.31 +11.07 4.26
Global Inc 65.47 69.65 -2.05 3.0
Brit Leaders 323.51 344.16 +5.53 2.60
Intl Leaders 188.09 200.10 +2.90 0.82
PAM Mg Bal Grth 61.01 63.39 -0.33 0.85

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD
Dealing: 071 280 2860
American 190.20 202.30† +3.20
(Accum Units) 203.30 216.30† +3.50
American Opps 83.12 88.86 +1.25 .
(Accum Units) 84.16 89.77 +1.26 .
British Blue Chip 74.07 78.56 -0.65 3.08
(Accum Units) 91.32 96.84 -0.81 3.08
Cash 100.70 100.70 +0.10 5.69
(Accum Units)* 138.90 138.90 +0.10 5.69
Emerging Mkts 118.00 126.90 -0.80 0.11
(Accum Units) 118.10 127.00 -0.80 0.11
European Growth 233.10 246.80 -1.40 0.18
(Accum Units) 251.30 266.00 -1.60 0.18
European Income 78.39 82.68† -1.48 3.46
(Accum Units) 105.40 111.40† -0.90 3.46
General 467.40 497.30 -4.30 2.49
(Accum Units) 911.20 969.50 -8.40 2.49
Global Bond 117.60 123.60 -0.10 5.59
(Accum Units) 141.70 148.90 -0.10 5.59
Gold & General 215.40 231.60 +5.40 0.39
(Accum Units) 221.10 237.70 +5.50 0.39
Govt Securities 87.63 90.36† +0.17 6.29
(Accum Units) 170.80 175.80† +0.30 6.29
Income 141.40 150.00† -0.10 4.63
(Accum Units) 219.00 232.40† -0.10 4.63
Inc Portfolio # 93.08 98.75 +0.19 5.27
(Accum Units) # 92.72 98.23 -0.33 5.29
Intl Opps 437.00 464.90† -0.50 0.35
(Accum Units) 582.90 620.10† -0.80 0.35
Japan 178.60 189.60 -3.30 .
(Accum Units) 183.50 194.80 -3.50 .
New Europe 168.40 179.60 -0.90 0.78
(Accum Units) 172.10 183.60 -1.00 0.78
Pacific 116.80 124.40 +3.70 0.82
(Accum Units) 124.80 133.10 +3.80 0.82
Recovery 275.20 293.50† -4.10 0.88
(Accum Units) 351.20 374.60† -5.20 0.88
UK Smaller Cos 53.56 57.12 -0.38 0.90
(Accum Units) 60.54 64.58 -0.42 0.90
Portfolio 75.65 80.52 -0.39 2.87
(Accum Units) 89.05 94.54 -0.35 2.87
Managed Gth 94.04 98.36 -0.41 1.93
Managed Inc 96.91 100.60 . 4.47

METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD
0707 662 233
Eurogrowth Plus 108.20 115.11 -0.75 0.93
Portfolio 83.46 87.51† -0.19 0.07
UK Income Inc 70.58 75.09 -0.21 4.99

MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126
Balanced 57.12 61.09 +0.13 2.97
(Accum Units) 60.10 64.27 +0.14 2.97
British Tst 79.01 84.50 +0.60 1.98
(Accum Units) 90.83 97.14 +0.69 1.98
Extra High Inc 65.91 70.49 -0.17 6.61
(Accum Units) 125.60 134.30 -0.30 6.61
FT-SE 100 Acc 50.48 53.55 +0.32 2.57
FT-SE 100 Dst 50.47 53.55 +0.32 2.57
Gilt & Fxd Int 52.67 54.61† . 7.20
(Accum Units) 152.30 158.50† . 7.20
High Yield 210.90 225.60 +1.00 5.83
(Accum Units) 528.30 565.00 +2.50 5.83
Income 273.50 292.50 +3.90 3.75
(Accum Units) 595.10 636.40 +8.60 3.75
Money Market UT 49.60 49.60 +0.04 4.80
(Accum Units) 77.15 77.16 +0.06 4.80
Monthly Income 81.09 86.79† -0.07 6.39
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust
British 93.01 98.95 -0.45 1.98
European Growth 99.41 105.40 -4.00 0.02
Gilt & Fixed 82.78 87.84 +0.02 6.12
Income 79.89 84.99 +0.31 3.01
Japan Growth 53.27 56.47 -1.02
Managed 65.49 69.67 +0.18 2.52
Money Market 86.17 91.34 +0.08 4.40
North American 83.83 88.86 -0.13 0.50
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust
British 85.47 90.93 +0.66 1.94
European Growth 93.53 99.13 -3.77 0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int 78.89 83.71 +0.03 6.28
Income 78.49 83.50 +0.28 3.07
Japan Growth 53.14 56.33 -1.03
Managed 62.65 66.65 +0.17 2.49
Money Market 79.67 84.46 +0.08 4.35
North American 76.45 81.04 -0.12 0.60
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust
British 85.48 90.94 +0.65 1.93
European Growth 91.30 96.78 -3.72 .
Gilt & Fixed Int 72.37 76.79 . 6.43
Income 77.58 82.53 +0.28 3.10
Japan Growth 54.39 57.66 -1.05 ..
Managed 64.71 68.84 -0.81 2.52
Money Market 74.35 78.81 +0.06 4.42
North American 84.60 89.68 -0.13 0.47

MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD
071 407 5966
International (US$) 11.95 12.71 +0.02 ..

MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD
Dealers: 071 826 0826 Enquiries: 071 826 0133
American Gwth 310.30 329.90 +6.80 ...
European Gth Inc 409.50 439.10† -6.30 0.29
(Accum Units) 413.90 443.90† -6.30 0.29
Intl Gwth 191.30 204.00 +1.70 ..
UK Equity Inc 170.40 181.50 -1.10 3.27
UK Ind Tack Inc 148.00 158.20 -1.20 2.83
(Accum Units) 173.80 185.70 -1.40 2.83
US Eq Ind Trk Inc 188.40 197.80 +3.70 1.56
Japan Tracker 76.55 81.09 +0.54
Asian Tracker 194.00 210.00 +5.20 0.30
Managed Inc 146.00 155.70† -0.40 1.50
Deposit Inc 99.87 99.87 +0.05 4.54
Europa 169.40 181.80 -2.40 0.28
Genesis 145.50 159.70 -1.30 2.28
High Income 21.39 22.83† +0.11 10.00

MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT
0345 090 933
Accruing 89.00 90.95 -0.47 2.43
Accruing Inc 84.24 86.08 -0.45 2.43
Accruing Reserve 81.54 82.38 +0.32 8.14
-do- Inc 71.16 71.87 +0.28 8.14
American Growth # 153.80 158.30 +1.60 0.96
Cash Income 49.71 49.71† +0.03 5.35
Equity Income # 86.28 90.49† -1.05 4.71
European 67.64 69.05 -0.24 .
Smaller Cos 73.90 77.39† -0.82 1.25
Olympiad 64.94 66.44 -0.08 0.17
Global Bond 41.87 42.34† +0.04 6.89
UK Growth 86.54 88.78 -0.68 1.80
Pacific Growth 101.30 104.60 +1.70 .
Japan Growth 94.34 95.88 +0.13 .

NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 0277 227 300 Dealing: 0277 261 010
Avon Equity 114.48 121.79 +1.72 2.96

N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
061 237 5322
UK Growth 70.29 74.78 +0.08 2.15
UK Income 100.70 107.20† +1.30 4.11
Higher Income 200.50 213.30† -5.70 5.16
Smaller Cos 75.42 80.24 +0.03 2.22
International 91.17 96.99 +0.24 1.75

NATIONAL PROV INV MGRS LTD
071 623 4200
Americas Dist 98.49 105.34† +1.77 0.68
European Dist 101.76 108.80† -0.60 0.40
Far East Dist 176.20 188.50 +1.50
Global Care Dist 63.89 68.33† -0.20 1.25
Overs Dist 968.00 £10.35 +8.20 0.12
(Accum Units) £12.56 £13.43 +10.70 0.12
UK Dist 321.20 343.50† +2.50 2.68
(Accum Units) 629.80 673.60 +3.90 2.68
UK Sm Co Inc Dist 72.97 78.04 . 4.06
Wwide Dist 100.60 107.60 +1.00 .
Wwide Inc Dist 66.31 70.92 -0.49 2.39

NATIONAL WESTMINSTER UT MGRS
Dlg: 0277 690 260 Admin Enq: 0277 690 396
Europe Inc 59.52 63.87 -0.03 0.50
Fund of Funds Inc 55.71 58.80 -0.03 0.88
North America Inc 48.27 48.83 +1.01 0.53
UK Equity Gth Inc 55.49 58.56† +0.29 2.13
(Accum Units) 57.59 60.78 +0.29 2.13
UK General Inc 54.03 57.02 -0.38 2.63
UK Index Tracker Inc 46.07 48.30 +0.10 7.24
UK Income Inc 54.12 57.12† +0.37 3.15

NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD
Price enquiry freephone 0500 33 00 00
Income 220.40 234.47 -2.82 3.48
Global 320.33 340.78 -1.80 0.20
General 179.48 190.94 +1.69 1.83
Gilt 112.24 118.29† -0.19 5.97
Growth 117.03 124.50 +1.03 2.48
[illegible] 112.26 116.34† -4.03 1.53
Energy Fund 83.43 88.73 ... 2.70
Continental 86.71 92.25† -0.74 3.32
Formerly Capital House
American Gwth Tst 34.13 36.50 +0.67
Cash Income 50.03 50.08† +0.03 4.62
European Gwth 37.43 39.96 +0.09 0.16
Extra Income & Gwth Inc 35.42 37.18 -0.03 4.91
Far East Gth 28.92 30.93 -0.33 0.30
Japan Gwth 27.07 28.95 -0.10 .
Managed Tst Inc 45.27 48.41 -0.27 2.11
Overseas Gwth Inc 135.60 145.30 -4.80 ..
Property Shares 34.62 37.02† -0.33 0.65
Smaller Cos 26.51 30.91 -1.01 1.68
UK Growth Tst 24.17 25.65 -0.06 3.15
[illegible]
[illegible] 68.04 72.77 -0.46 1.36
[illegible] 62.76 67.14† -0.46 2.82
[illegible] 29.54 30.70 . 1.76
[illegible] 86.96 92.89 -0.30 3.56
[illegible] 48.21 51.32† -0.92
High Income 69.91 74.76† +0.33 8.43
Mngd Ptflio Inc 101.70 108.70 . 1.07
Mngd Ptflio Acc 194.40 207.90 . 1.07
Monthly Income 77.03 82.43 +0.41 4.59

NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS
0603 682 234
[illegible] 115.60 122.85 -0.31 1.97
UK Equity 125.45 136.66 +0.53 3.25
UK Equity Income 121.83 129.61† +0.52 3.66
UK Smaller Cos 111.42 118.53 -0.94 1.82
UK Equity [illegible] 120.01 127.67 -0.47 2.39
UK Index Trkg 130.02 138.32 -1.45 3.68
Intl Index Trkg 138.10 148.91 -1.66 1.18
International 221.01 235.12 +1.96 0.37
European 183.80 195.53 -0.29 0.24
Pan European 122.43 130.24 . 1.34
American 155.33 165.24† +2.92 0.33
N Amer Smlr Cos 172.22 183.21 +1.71
Japanese 94.58 100.62† -0.13 .
Pacific 227.53 242.05† +4.43 0.04
South East Asian 245.75 261.44 +7.70 0.34
Intl Bond 126.72 134.72 -0.23 5.53
Gilt & Convertible 100.29 106.61† -2.20 6.59
Property 81.82 87.04† -0.16 5.20

PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Dlg: 0800 526 577 Enq: 0733 470 470
Equity 223.70 238.00† -1.80 2.66
(Accum Units) 472.30 502.30 -3.80 2.66
Growth 143.70 152.30 -1.30 2.72
Income 220.70 236.20 -1.70 3.93
Intl Equity 238.60 254.00 +1.60 0.80
(Accum Units) 263.90 280.70 +1.70 0.80
UK Income 61.92 65.86 -0.70 3.28
UK Intl 25 74.31 79.05 -0.41 2.10
New Europe 74.69 79.45 -0.27 0.37

PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT
0491 417 000
Intl Growth Inc 574.00 613.91 +6.34 0.37
(Accum Units) 574.00 613.91 +6.34 0.37
Income 324.68 347.26 +5.30 3.42
Wwide Recovery 362.57 387.78 +3.81 0.10
Amer Growth Inc 203.95 218.04 +4.55 0.01
(Accum Units) 203.95 218.04 +4.55 0.01
Intl Emerging Cos 234.89 251.22 +0.06 0.14
Far Estn Gth Inc 277.58 296.88† +1.33 0.10
(Accum Units) 277.58 296.88 +1.33 0.10
Euro Gwth Inc 130.98 140.07† -0.40 0.42
(Accum Units) 131.37 140.51 -0.39 0.42
UK Growth Inc 83.21 89.00 +0.82 2.73
(Accum Units) 85.24 91.17 +0.85 2.73
High Income 90.79 97.11 +1.27 4.16
Jap Gwth Inc 224.54 239.08 -0.50 0.01
(Accum Units) 224.54 239.08 -0.50 0.01
PEP Growth 112.89 120.74 +1.05 0.98
Asian Sir Mkts Inc 123.10 131.66 +1.23 0.01
(Accum Units) 123.10 131.66 +1.23 0.01
Amer Smll Co Inc 118.63 126.88† +1.84 0.01
(Accum Units) 118.63 126.88 +1.84 0.01
Global Bond 53.02 56.64 -0.19 5.99
UK Smaller Cos Inc 75.91 81.19 -0.13 1.29
(Accum Units) 78.86 84.35 -0.13 1.29

PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
091 201 3927
American 95.07 101.14 -1.21
European 66.70 70.96 -1.09
Global 83.11 87.14 -0.63
Pacific 59.97 63.80 -0.57 ..
UK Inc & Gth 61.49 65.41 -0.25 1.94

POINTON YORK UT MGRS
0533 550 540
Brit Director Gth 86.93 92.58 -6.52 0.36

PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD
071 407 5966
Portfolio 152.31 160.33 -1.25 0.66
Emerg Mkts 49.77 52.39 -0.09

PREMIUM LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0444 458 721
Monthly Income 56.00 59.35 -0.48 2.60
Growth Income 59.05 62.69 -0.43 2.29

PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0732 740 700
Principal Tst 122.36 130.18 +0.24 1.73

PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 071 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 262 443
American Income 87.78 93.39 +0.18 3.64
Conv & Gilt 109.70 116.70† -1.20 6.38
European Income 70.29 74.77 -0.46 2.95
Extra Income 143.10 152.30† +0.10 4.06
(Accum Units) 173.70 184.70 +1.40 4.06
Far East 395.10 420.40 +6.80 0.23
(Accum Units) 402.60 428.30 +6.90 0.23
Global Income 24.65 26.22 -0.01 4.45
High Income 108.70 115.60 -0.70 3.71
(Accum Units) 129.00 137.20 -0.90 3.71
International 200.50 213.30 +2.10 0.52
(Accum Units) 206.80 219.80 +2.30 0.52
Pref & Fxd Int 43.06 45.81 +0.15 7.24
Recovery 68.23 72.59 -0.79 2.03
Special Sits 99.43 105.80† -0.90 1.36
(Accum Units) 107.50 114.40 -0.90 1.36
Technology 333.90 355.20 +4.00
UK Blue Chip 64.94 69.08 -0.07 3.00
(Accum Units) 72.03 76.62 -0.08 3.00

PROSPERITY UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0622 674 751
General 49.25 52.39† +0.02 2.27
International 86.06 91.55 +0.78 0.39
Gilt 23.66 24.39† +0.03 6.71
Income & Gwth 66.14 70.36† . 4.97
European 49.13 52.27 +0.23 0.45
American 51.06 54.31 +0.11 .
Emerging Mkts 78.14 85.69 -0.45 0.04
UK Smaller Cos 37.47 39.22 -0.54 1.77
Gilt/Fixed Interest 24.34 25.89† +0.06 7.21
Global PEP 36.87 39.22 +0.43 1.31

PROVIDENCE CAPITOL FD MGRS LTD
0256 768 888
European Inc 245.70 263.50 -3.60 .
(Accum Units) 260.00 278.80 -3.80 .
Japan Inc 108.90 116.20 -1.10 .
Nth American Inc 103.20 111.30 +1.80 .
Worldwide Inc 155.70 167.30 +0.20 0.15
Hong Kong Inc 128.30 135.40 +6.80 1.45
Smlr Cos Equities Inc 63.14 67.58 +0.40 ...
Wwide Bond Inc 59.75 63.17 +0.14 4.98
Emging Asia Inc 217.50 238.20† +3.20
(Accum Units) 218.30 237.10 +3.30 .
UK Money Mkt Inc 50.26 50.26† +0.04 4.97
Thailand Inc 159.60 171.20† +3.50 0.39
Gold Trust Inc 75.19 81.30 +1.21 0.22
New Zealand Inc 84.88 91.61 +1.83 1.71
Intl Mngd PEP Inc 81.26 85.90 +0.01 0.96
Latin Am Cap Inc 87.73 94.58 -1.48 0.33
UK All Sh Mkr Inc 55.07 59.10 +0.28 2.58
Broker Unit Trusts
Global Trustees 75.83 81.10 -0.88 ..
Global Portfolio 68.87 72.66 -0.42 ..
Global Opps 69.03 73.83 -1.10 ..
Marsh Global Grth 64.68 68.59 +0.15 ..
AAM Global Equity 51.83 54.93† +0.03 ..
CAM Brit Gwth Inc 82.44 88.75 -1.14 .
Temple Equity Inc 42.40 45.29 . 2.16
Hartley Growth 71.57 75.86 -0.25 0.29
Intl Growth Inc 83.57 89.38 -0.41 0.60
IPS Portfolio Inc 82.30 88.02 -0.91 ...
St Jas Mo Inc Inc 48.47 48.14† -0.03 ..
Premier Perfmn Inc 67.61 72.31 -0.18 1.44
Roxburgh Strat Gth 71.18 76.13 -0.23 ..
Tecs Analyst 94.75 100.80 -0.90 ..
Rosebery Growth 48.49 52.50 +0.22 ...
International Strat 75.47 80.72 -0.38 0.02
UFC Ind-Act Gth 57.80 55.98 -0.34 ..
Coverdale Topsail 49.32 52.26 -0.43 ..
Penn Equity Inc 108.70 114.40 .. ..
Lowes Intl Growth 43.30 45.67 -0.37 0.67

PROVIDENT MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
071 588 3863
Equity Gth 156.40 166.40 -0.80 1.89
European Gth 92.65 98.34 -0.58 0.40
Income & Gth # 123.80 130.98 -1.20 3.30
Japan Gth 120.50 128.30 +0.50 ..
Nth Amer Gth 111.20 118.30 +1.70 0.18
Overseas Gth 85.31 90.76 +0.82 .

PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
081 478 3377 Client Enq: 071 911 4490
Managed Tst 34.88 37.30 +0.22 1.49
Cash Haven Inc 101.15 101.65† +0.07 4.82
Cash Haven Acc 110.74 111.28† +0.07 4.82
Dist Trust Inc 92.13 98.53 +0.38 4.27
Dist Trust Acc 94.16 100.70 +0.38 4.27
Global Growth 84.28 90.13 +0.55 1.29
Equity Inc 78.24 83.67† +1.47 3.80
Equity 683.67 731.19 +10.08 2.28
European 198.08 211.85† +1.10 0.74
High Income 84.55 90.42† +0.65 5.05
Ind Gth 170.52 182.37 +0.87 1.28
Intl Sm Co 73.17 78.25 +0.08 0.42
Japanese 219.13 234.38 -0.45 ..
Nth Amer 152.21 162.66† +2.51 1.76
Pacific Mkts 99.08 105.96 +3.58 0.23
Premier Inc 48.62 48.72 +0.12 4.86
Sm Cos 82.46 88.19† -0.63 1.54
Spec Sits 102.62 109.75 +0.74 2.11
UK Growth 113.72 121.62 +0.89 2.21

RELIANCE UNIT MGRS. LTD
0892 510 033
British Life 282.20 298.30 +0.10 3.22

ROCK ASSET MGMT (UNIT TRUST) LTD
091 285 2555
Managed 90.07 95.56 -1.47 2.33

ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT
Dealers: 071 280 5000
FA America (Inc) 477.65 508.36 +4.57 0.35
FA America (Acc) 558.46 594.32 +5.34 0.35
FA UK Equity Inc 144.01 153.38† -2.26 3.76
FA Japan 258.66 276.53 -2.09 .
FA Major UK Cos 87.30 92.93† -0.86 2.46
FA Smlr UK Cos 278.03 302.47 -1.38 1.36
FA European 303.64 321.61 -2.18 0.53
FA Amer Smlr Cos 41.63 44.82 +0.37 ..
FA Asia 47.24 50.66 +1.28 ..
FA Jap Smlr Cos 49.90 53.40 -1.00
RAM Personal Pension
UK Major Cos 88.59 93.15 -0.84 ..
UK Smlr Cos 79.90 84.10 -0.35 ..
UK Income 87.09 91.67 -1.30 ..
America 95.90 100.94 +0.91 ..
Japanese 57.12 60.12 -0.45 ..
European 96.95 102.04 -0.89 ..
Gilt 85.53 90.03 +0.27 ..
Deposit 82.74 87.09 +0.08 .
Managed 92.69 97.56 -0.36 ..
RAM FSAVC Scheme
UK Major Cos 86.19 90.72 -0.82 ..
UK Smaller Cos 78.08 82.18 -0.35 ..
UK Income 84.97 89.43 -1.29 ..
America 93.37 98.28 +0.89 ..
Japanese 56.63 59.55 -0.44 ..
European 94.45 99.41 -0.88 ..
Gilt 84.57 89.01 +0.23 ..
Deposit 78.80 82.94 +0.08 ..
Managed 87.27 91.85 -0.40 ..

ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD
Prices: 0733 282 828 Gen Enq: 0733 390 000
United States 71.88 76.73 +1.63 0.24
Pacific Basin 77.96 83.94 +9.95 .
High Inc Dist 123.10 131.60 -0.30 5.40
Ryl Life Inc Cury 56.84 60.43 +0.27 4.34
Ryl Life Intl Gwth 64.40 68.78 +0.40 0.923
Ryl Life Intl Spec 60.72 64.58 +0.24 ..
UK Emerging Cos 119.50 128.10 -1.80 1.19
UK Index Trckg 152.10 162.00† -1.40 3.41
European 120.50 128.60† -1.60 0.29
Managed 137.80 148.30 -0.20 0.86

ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0206 784 400
American Growth 135.80 143.88 +3.60 0.35
European Growth 105.30 111.30 -0.80 0.87
Far East Growth 128.70 137.00 +1.50 0.27
Japan Growth 134.50 143.00 -1.30 ..
Special Sits 180.20 191.70 -2.70 1.60
UK Growth 71.13 75.67† -1.18 2.50
Trojan General 226.00 240.50 +1.30 0.67

ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD
041 307 6500
Far East Inc 163.00 172.50 +3.10 0.22
Gtr Euro Prog Inc 333.30 352.70 -0.80 0.31
(Accum Units) 515.20 545.20 -1.20 0.31
Growth Inc 126.30 133.70 -0.40 0.64
(Accum Units) 128.70 136.20 -0.40 0.64
International Inc 326.70 345.70 -0.50 0.46
(Accum Units) 448.10 474.20 -0.70 0.46
Nth Am & Intl Inc 303.20 320.80 +0.80 0.90
UK Gen Prog Inc 213.10 225.50 -2.40 1.15
UK High Inc Inc 127.40 134.80 +0.70 4.03

SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD
071 330 0572
American Gwth 59.85 63.68† +2.00 ...
Amer Smlr Cos 72.27 76.88† +2.14 ..
Asian Gwth 108.70 114.99 +3.61 0.79
European Gwth 63.14 67.17† -0.91 1.00
Global Bd 57.59 60.90 -0.12 5.00
Global Eq 60.66 64.53† +0.85 0.50
Japanese Eq 54.93 58.43† -0.21 ..
Japan Sm Cos 64.61 68.81 -0.49 ..
UK Gen 51.12 54.38 +0.25 2.80
UK Gwth 56.27 59.86† +0.30 1.75

SAVE & PROSPER GROUP
0708 766 966
Amer Inc & Gwth # 64.78 68.91 +1.13 4.35
Amer Growth 103.00 109.60 +1.60 ..
Asian Smaller Cos 44.78 47.64 +0.92 .
Capital Portfolio 120.40 128.10 -2.40 2.01
Capital 154.50 164.40 -0.70 1.25
Cash 125.30 125.30† +0.10 5.31
China Dragon 56.87 60.50 +1.59 0.64
Commodity 127.60 135.70 +0.80 0.32
Eastern Discovery 98.23 104.50 +0.10 ...
Emerging Mkts 41.98 44.66 -0.24 ..
Energy Inds 116.80 124.30 +1.50 0.45
European Gwth 178.50 189.90† -2.00 .
Euro Inc & Gwth # 73.30 77.98 -0.85 2.06
Euro Smllr Cos 49.84 53.02† -0.45 .
Extra Income # 49.30 50.79 -0.18 6.15
Financial Secs 190.00 202.10† -0.10 1.07
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc # 47.80 50.45 +0.21 8.96
Gold & Exploration 79.65 84.73 +1.25 ..
High Return # 213.50 227.10 -0.80 4.48
High Yield # 211.88 225.30 -0.40 4.15
Income # 112.90 120.10 -1.00 4.57
Intl Bond 157.90 168.60 -0.20 5.97
ITU 202.00 214.90 +1.50 1.54
Japan Growth 174.90 186.10 -0.88 ..
Japan Smaller 185.30 197.10 -4.50 ..
Korea 72.96 77.62 -0.74 ..
Matterhorn 53.49 56.90† +0.12 0.79
Scotbits 288.90 305.20 -0.50 1.48
Scotshares # 267.50 284.60† -2.40 2.63
Scotyields # 223.50 237.80 -2.30 3.98
Select Intl 135.90 144.60 . 0.36
Smaller Cos Inc # 235.80 250.80 -2.80 3.83
SE Asia 54.61 58.10 +1.24 .
Special Situation 115.30 122.70 -1.40 1.29
UK Equity # 229.90 244.60 -0.40 2.98
UK Growth 59.41 63.20 -0.91 1.58
UK Smlr Cos Gwth 44.74 47.68 -0.55 0.81
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Intl Income 55.48 58.71 -0.17 5.26
(Accum Units) 68.21 72.18 -0.21 5.26
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هكذا من الأصل

Bath omit Ojomoh and Redman for cup-tie

McGeechan forced to continue youth policy

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

ENGLISH domestic rugby emerges from something of a black hole today. This is not to disparage either the divisional or county championships, which have been interspersed with the recent international programme, but neither has recreated the excitement of the league programme, which has packed grounds up and down the country.

Instead, club treasurers have been wringing their hands as their prime assets — the leading players — disport themselves elsewhere, so the fourth round of the Pilkington Cup today is an oasis in the desert. Not that all the leading players return to competition; international injuries have taken their toll on Paul Hull, Ben Clarke and Tony Underwood, all of whom miss their respective ties.

Yet for some the last month has provided a period of retrenchment. Northampton concluded the first half of the league programme at the foot of the first division and Ian McGeechan, their new director of rugby, faced the impossible task of getting to know his charges while all the time the team was trundling inexorably downhill.

"We have played ten or 11 under-21s in the first team over the last month and have won five of our last seven matches," McGeechan said. "I have got to know the players better, they're all thinking the same way now and Martin Bayfield said he could feel the difference when he returned to train with us, having been with England."

The proof of McGeechan's pudding will be seen in the potentially awkward cup-tie at Moseley. Northampton field a familiar-looking pack, but a virtually unknown back division, with no Hunter, Grayson or Dawson. Nick Beal has the chance to show his attacking paces from full back and two under-21s, Alastair Hepher and Andy Gallagher, come in at half back.

The fourth round can generally be reckoned to be the last hurrah for the minnows of the competition, unless the draw favours them — though now that the Senior Clubs Association has changed its name to that of RFU National Clubs Association to avoid upsetting sensibilities, one has to be cautious about describing clubs as minnows.

For present purposes, Sandal and Tabard may be so designated when compared to Bath and Leicester, who, with their first-division colleagues, hope to march into Monday's draw. Yet Sandal, the only qualifier remaining, may reasonably hope to join them. Unbeaten in Northern division one, Sandal entertain Lydney, of the fifth division, while Tabard, boosted in the last round by the goalkicking exploits of Nick Churchman, visit Richmond tomorrow.

Their tie is delayed 24 hours because Richmond's co-tenants, London Scottish, have first choice of the Athletic Ground, where Bath, the cup holders, are the visitors. Bath find no place for Steve Ojomoh and Nigel Redman, of the England World Cup training squad: in the absence of the injured Clarke, their back row comprises Andy Robinson, at open-side flanker (the position in which England would prefer to see Ojomoh), John Hall, and Eric Peters, who has been playing so well for the Scottish Exiles.

At lock, Martin Haag keeps out Redman and Marcus Olsen gets a rare first-team outing at scrum half because Ian Sanders is unavailable. Whatever the permutations, London Scottish will remember that Bath have won the cup eight times in the last 11 years and are the halfway-stage leaders in the league.

Leicester, one of the two clubs to wrench free Bath's grip, play Steve Hackney on the wing against Blackheath instead of the injured Underwood. The other cup winners of the past decade, Harlequins, will need no better motivation than the recent suggestions that they could lose to Saracens, proud owners of one of the best back rows in the country.

The fourth round of the Swalec Cup provides Steve Sutton, the former Pontypool and Wales lock, with the chance to enjoy top-flight competition once more — literally, since he plays for Merthyr in direct opposition to Wales's newest lock, Derwyn Jones, of Cardiff.

At 6ft 6in, Sutton reckoned to hold his own with most during his international career; now he will look up to the 6ft 10in Jones and wonder how far guile will take him where stature cannot.

French sense victory

AFTER England's record-equalling defeat of the Canada rugby union touring team last week, there will be expectations of a comfortable French victory at the Stade Léo Lagrange, Besançon, in the visitors' final match. (David Hands writes).

FRANCE: J-L Sadourny (Colomiers); E N'Tamack (Toulouse), P Sella Agen), T Lacroix (Dax), P Saint-André (Montferrand, capt), Y Delaigue (Toulon), G Accocebery (Bègles-Bordeaux); L Bénézech (Racing), J-M Gonzalez (Bayonne), C Califano (Toulouse), A Costes (Montferrand), O Merle (Montferrand), O Roumat (Dax), P Benetton (Agen), A Benazzi (Agen).

CANADA: D S Stewart (UBCOB), W Stanley (UBC), C Stewart (Rovigo), S D Gray (Kats), D C Lougheed (Toronto), G L Rees (Oxford Univ, capt), J D Graf (UBCOB); E Evans (IBM Tokyo), K F Svoboda (Ajax Wanderers), D C Jackart (UBCOB), I Gordon (James Bay), M James (Burnaby Lake), N Hadley (Wasps), G I MacKinnon (Ex Brittania Lions), C McKenzie (UBCOB).

Referee: B Leask (Australia).



MARC ASPLAND

James Fisher and Tip Toe on the way to success in the Christmas Candle Stakes at Olympia yesterday

Beerbaum clocks up narrow victory

By Jenny MacArthur

LUDGER BEERBAUM, the Olympic show jumping champion, from Germany, displayed his inimitable style against the clock at Olympia yesterday when he and It's Me won the Father Christmas Stakes by the margin of 0.77sec.

Beerbaum, the winner of the Amsterdam and Berlin World Cup qualifiers in November, describes his nine-year-old mare as "brave, clever and easy to ride". Yesterday's competition gave her unlimited scope to display those qualities.

James Fisher, of Great Britain, the winner of the Geneva World Cup qualifier last Sunday, had held the early lead on Tip Toe, one of the horses on which he had won the two-horse relay, the Christmas Candle Stakes, earlier in the afternoon. Markus Fuchs, of Switzerland, then knocked almost three seconds off his time with a superb performance on Adelfos.

"I didn't see his round," Beerbaum said, "but I heard his time and realised that I would have to go fast." That proved an understatement. It's Me flew round the ten fences to finish a fraction inside Fuchs's time.

Although their winnings — £1,800 — were small beer for a man who has won £325,000 this year, Beerbaum was delighted with victory. "The competition is strong at Olympia — it's always good to win here," he said.

Today he will attempt to win his third World Cup qualifier of the season. Although his top horse, Ratina, on which he won the 1993 World Cup, is resting, he has an enviable "second horse" in Gaylord, a prolific winner of grands prix. Asked how seriously he was taking the remaining qualifiers of the season, given that he has already qualified for the World Cup final, Beerbaum replied "very seriously".

Fisher, whose unexpected win in Geneva was his first in a qualifier, underlined his new-found confidence with his triumph. After completing a fast clear round on Tip Toe he leapt into the saddle of Rose Princess and, barely giving himself time to gather up the reins, produced a second fast clear round to finish two seconds ahead of the runner-up, Peter Eriksson.

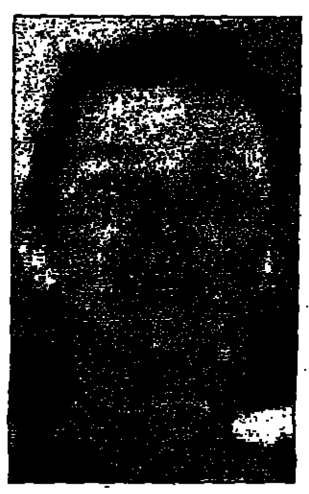
Earlier in the afternoon Paul Barker, the 16-year-old son of the former Olympic show jumper, David Boston Barker, dominated the Winter Wrap Young Show Jumper Award, winning the event on the seven-year-old, Count Bellair, and finishing third on Sasage.

Alison Bradley, who was invited to Olympia on a wild card, was savouring her first international success yesterday after her spectacular win in the Sprehe Christmas Turkey Stakes on Endeavour late on Thursday night.

Bradley, 25, who lost her right eye after being kicked by a horse at Bicton Show two years ago, had the satisfaction of relegating Jan Tops, one of the leading Dutch riders, to second place, on Operette La Silla, and Beerbaum to third, on It's Me.

RESULTS: Yesterday: Father Christmas Stakes: 1, Sprehe It's Me (L Beerbaum, Ger) 0 in 50.10; 2, Adelfos AC Folien (M Fuchs, Switz) 0 in 50.87; 3, JJ II (D Bowen, GB) 0 in 52.67; 4, Tip Toe (J Fisher, GB) 0 in 53.58. Winter Wrap Young Show Jumper Award: 1, Count Bellair (P Barker) 0 in 23.10; 2, Penny's Delight (L Murphy) 0 in 27.22; 3, Sasage (P Barker) 4 in 25.13. Christmas Candle Stakes: 1, Tip Toe and Rose Princess (J Fisher, GB) 75.48; 2, Flyinge Artist and Flyinge Electro (P Eriksson, Swe) 77.55; 3, Ultimee du Chemin and Saphir (S Lauber, Switz) 80.29. Thursday: Sprehe Christmas Turkey Stakes: 1, Endeavour (A Bradley, GB) 0 in 32.09; 2, Operette La Silla (J Tops, Holland) 0 in 38.05; 3, Sprehe It's Me (L Beerbaum, Ger) 4 in 30.58.

Women's game on sounder footing



Burns: new captain

ALL the talk is of sponsorship for the domestic game, the turnover in players, the input from the divisional championship — and it is all applied to women's rugby, where the international season begins tomorrow, at Wasps (David Hands writes). England, holders of the world title they won in Edinburgh eight months ago, play Holland in what is the beginning of a new era for the game in England.

Since last season the administration has been rationalised, an international body has been formed and the four home unions have separated. The formation of the Rugby Football Union for Women, governing England only, has brought access to Sports Council grants and a greater accord with the men's governing body.

Victory over the United States also brought greater recognition from sponsors. National Car Parks has backed the divisional tournament, won by the North, and this week Vladivar Vodka brought a heady tang to the national knockout competition while marketing of the England squad is in hand.

But of the XV that carried off the world title, only eight remain to play the Dutch. There is a new captain in Gill Burns, the experienced Waterloo No 8, and four newcomers, all of them behind the scrum as England look towards the next world tournament, likely to be in Canada in 1998, and examine the potential of the next generation.

Burns, 30, a PE teacher at Culcheth High School in Warrington, has no doubt about England's ability to sustain their high ranking.

ENGLAND: H Hulme (Clifton); J Molyneux (Waterloo), J Edwards (Blackheath), A Wallace (Leeds), A Cole (Saracens), D Mills (Richmond), S Appleby (Novocastrians); J Mangham (Waterloo), N Ponsford (Clifton), E Scourfield (Leeds), J Chambers (Richmond), S Wenn (Wasps), H Stirrup (Wasps), H Clayton (Waterloo), G Burns (Waterloo, captain).

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*
Pools numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Arsenal v Leeds
(—) Coventry v Newcastle
(2) Crystal Palace v Norwich
(3) Everton v Tottenham
(4) * Leicester v Blackburn
(—) Manchester Utd v Nottm Forest
(5) Sheffield Wednesday v QPR
(6) West Ham v Manchester City

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	18	13	3	2	41	16	42
Man Utd	18	13	2	3	35	12	41
Newcastle	18	11	4	3	39	22	37
Liverpool	18	9	5	4	34	18	32
Nottm F.	18	9	5	4	31	19	32
Man City	18	8	4	6	30	28	28
Leeds	18	8	4	6	26	24	28
Chelsea	18	8	3	7	26	23	27
Norwich	18	7	6	5	18	15	27
Tottenham	18	7	4	7	32	34	25
Arsenal	18	6	6	6	22	19	24
Coventry	18	6	5	7	20	29	23
C Palace	18	5	6	7	15	19	21
Southampton	18	5	6	7	25	30	21
Sheff Wed	18	5	6	7	19	26	21
* Wimbledon	18	6	3	9	19	31	21
QPR	18	5	4	9	27	35	19
Everton	18	4	6	8	15	24	18
West Ham	18	5	3	10	12	21	18
A Villa	18	3	7	8	21	29	16
Leicester	18	3	4	11	19	33	13
* Ipswich	18	3	2	13	17	37	11

* does not include last night's match

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

(7) Bolton v Grimsby
(8) Charlton v Oldham
(9) Derby v Barnsley
(10) Notts County v Portsmouth
(—) Port Vale v Swindon
(11) Southend v Millwall
(12) Sunderland v Bristol City
(13) Tranmere v Stoke
(14) Watford v Sheffield Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlsbro	21	12	4	5	32	19	40
Wolves	21	11	4	6	37	23	37
Tranmere	21	10	6	5	35	25	36
Bolton	21	10	5	6	33	24	35
Barnsley	21	10	5	6	24	22	35
Reading	21	9	6	6	24	20	33
Sheff Utd	21	9	5	7	33	23	32
Grimsby	21	8	8	5	29	24	32
Southend	21	9	4	8	23	32	31
Luton	21	8	6	7	31	29	30
Stoke	21	8	6	7	25	25	30
Oldham	21	8	5	8	28	27	29
Watford	21	7	8	6	22	24	29
Derby	21	7	7	7	22	19	28
Sunderland	21	5	10	6	22	20	25
Millwall	21	6	7	8	27	28	25
Port Vale	21	6	6	9	24	27	24
Burnley	20	5	9	6	21	25	24
Charlton	20	5	8	7	30	32	23
Swindon	21	6	5	10	28	35	23
West Brom	21	5	6	10	18	30	21
Portsmth	21	4	8	9	21	33	20
Bristol City	21	5	4	12	17	30	19
Notts County	21	4	6	11	21	31	18

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Connah's Quay v Conwy; Cwmbran v Flint Town; Newtown v Llanelli; Rhyl v Llansantffraid.

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Fourth round: Afan Lido v Ton Pentre; Bangor City v Maesteg Park; Barry v Llandudno; Ebbw Vale v Risca; Merthyr Tydfil v Aberystwyth; Porthmadog v Caersws.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Larne; Ballyclare v Bangor; Carrick v Omagh; Cliftonville v Glenavon; Coleraine v Distillery; Glentoran v Crusaders; Newry v Ballymena; Portadown v Linfield.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Cobh R v Galway (7.30).

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Chelsea v West Ham; Fulham v Charlton; Gillingham v Queens Park Rangers; Millwall v Watford; Norwich v Leyton Orient; Portsmouth v Arsenal; Southend v Ipswich; Tottenham v Cambridge Utd. Second division: Bristol Rovers v Brentford; Colchester v Wimbledon; Luton v Tottenham; Oxford Utd v Bristol City; Reading v Bournemouth; Southampton v Swindon; Wycombe v Brighton.

FA VASE: Third round: Hailsham v Eastleigh; Wick v Elmore; Banstead v Falmouth; Tunbridge Wells v Liskeard. Third round replay: Cammell Laird v Thackley.

Second division

(15) Birmingham v Leyton Orient
(16) Bradford v Chester
(17) Brentford v Plymouth
(18) Brighton v Swansea
(19) Bristol Rovers v Peterborough
(20) Cardiff v Stockport
(21) Huddersfield v Blackpool
(22) Hull v Oxford Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford Utd	19	13	4	2	38	18	43
Birmingham	18	11	6	2	35	12	39
* Wycombe	19	12	3	4	30	22	39
Huddersfld	19	11	5	3	40	26	38
Hull	19	10	3	6	32	24	33
Blackpool	19	10	2	7	31	27	32
Stockport	19	10	1	8	30	26	31
Bristol R	19	7	9	3	30	17	30
Bradford	19	9	3	7	28	28	30
* Crewe	19	9	3	7	36	38	30
Brentford	19	9	2	8	27	20	29
* Wrexham	19	8	5	6	31	28	29
Swansea	19	7	7	5	24	21	28
Peterboro	19	7	7	5	24	27	28
* York	19	7	5	7	23	22	26
* Rotherham	19	6	4	9	24	28	22
Brighton	19	5	6	8	19	25	21
* Shrwsbury	19	5	4	10	25	27	19
Plymouth	19	5	3	11	20	36	18
Cardiff	19	4	4	11	23	32	16
L Orient	19	4	4	11	16	26	16
* Camb Utd	19	4	4	11	23	34	16
Chester	19	3	3	13	13	32	12
* Bournemth	19	2	3	14	14	40	9

* does not include last night's matches

Third division

(24) Exeter v Darlington
(25) Hartlepool v Bury
(26) Preston v Barnet
(27) Rochdale v Gillingham
(28) Scarborough v Carlisle
(29) Torquay v Lincoln
(30) Walsall v Hereford
(31) Wigan v Fulham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	18	13	4	1	33	13	43
Bury	18	12	4	2	27	6	40
* Doncaster	18	10	6	2	30	12	36
Barnet	18	10	5	3	29	19	35
Walsall	18	8	7	3	29	18	31
Chestrfld	18	8	5	5	21	18	29
* Colchester	18	8	5	5	25	26	29
Fulham	19	6	7	5	20	19	25
Torquay	18	6	6	6	24	23	24
Preston	18	7	2	9	24	23	23
Lincoln	18	6	5	7	23	22	23
* Scunthrpe	18	6	4	8	28	28	22
Mansfield	18	6	4	8	24	25	22
Exeter	18	6	4	8	17	27	22
Rochdale	18	6	4	8	26	37	22
Darlington	18	5	4	9	20	25	19
Hartlepool	18	5	4	9	12	21	19
Wigan	18	5	2	11	22	29	17
Gillingham	18	4	5	9	20	28	17
Hereford	18	4	4	10	19	31	16
* Northmptn	18	2	9	7	13	20	15
Scarboro	18	3	4	11	17	33	13

* does not include last night's matches

Vauxhall Conference

(32) Dover v Stalybridge
(33) Farnborough v Macclesfield
(34) Gateshead v Telford
(35) Kettering v Altrincham
(36) Kidderminster v Runcorn
(37) Northwich v Bath
(38) Southport v Dag and Red
(39) Stafford v Welling
(40) Stevenage v Yeovil
(41) Woking v Bromsgrove

Bell's Scottish League

First division

(—) Clydebank v Hamilton

Tennents Scottish Cup

First round

(—) Albion v Montrose
(—) Caley Thistle v Queen of South
(—) Dumbarton v Stirling
(—) Stenhousemuir v East Stirling

European under-21 championship

Group eight

(—) Greece v Scotland (Athens, 1.0)

Unibond Northern Premier League

Premier division

(—) Boston v Chorley
(—) Buxton v Marine
(—) Droylsden v Accrington Stanley
(—) Emley v Matlock
(—) Frickley v Witton
(42) Horwich v Hyde
(43) Knowsley v Guiseley
(44) Morecambe v Bishop Auckland
(45) Spennymoor v Barrow
(46) Whitley Bay v Colwyn Bay
(47) Winsford v Gainsborough

Beazer Homes League

Premier division

(—) Atherstone v Worcester
(—) Cheltenham v Burton
(—) Crawley v Corby
(—) Dorchester v VS Rugby
(—) Gresley v Hastings
(48) Halesowen v Chelmsford
(49) Hednesford v Gloucester
(50) Leek v Gravesend and Northfl
(51) Rushden and Diamonds v Solihull
(52) Sittingbourne v Cambridge City
(53) Sudbury v Trowbridge

Diadora League

Premier division

(—) Bishop's Stortford v Harrow
(—) Chesham v Hayes
(—) Grays v Hitchin
(—) Hendon v Enfield
(—) Marlow v Wokingham
(55) Slough v Purfleet
(54) St Albans v Kingstonian
(56) Sutton United v Molesey
(57) Walton and Hersham v Aylesbury
(58) Yeading v Bromley

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Ashford v Waterlooville; Bashley v Baldock; Braintree v Clevedon; Burnham v Fisher 93; Erith and Belvedere v Salisbury; Fareham v Bury Town; Havant v Witney; Margate v Poole; Newport IOW v Tonbridge AFC; Weston-super-Mare v Wealdstone; Yate v Weymouth. Midland division: Bridgnorth v Nuneaton; Buckingham Town v Grantham; Evesham v RC Warwick; Hinckley Town v Redditch; Ilkeston v Forest Green; King's Lynn v Bilston; Moor Green v Dudley Town; Rothwell v Newport AFC; Stourbridge v Sutton Coldfield; Tamworth v Leicester United.

DIADORA LEAGUE: First division: Abingdon Town v Berkhamsted; Aldershot Town v Uxbridge; Billericay v Wivenhoe; Bognor Regis v Staines; Boreham Wood v Worthing; Chertsey v Barking; Heybridge Swifts v Tooting and Mitcham; Leyton v Dorking; Maidenhead v Ruislip Manor; Wembley v Newbury; Whyteleafe v Basingstoke. Second division: Aveley v Croydon; Barton v Tilbury; Egham v Thame; Hemel Hempstead v Witham; Hungerford v Cheshunt; Leatherhead v Hampton; Malden Vale v Bracknell; Metropolitan Police v Windsor and Eton; Oxford City v Edgware; Ware v Chalfont St Peter. Third division: Bedford Town v East Thurrock; Camberley v Tring; Canvey Island v Feltham and Hounslow; Epsom and Ewell v Flackwell Heath; Harlow v Cove; Kingsbury v Hertford; Leighton v Hornchurch; Lewes v Clapton; Northwood v Horsham; Southall v Harefield.

UNIBOND NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Caernarfon v Worksop; Congleton v Lancaster; Eastwood Town v Netherfield; Goole v Bamber Bridge; Great Harwood v Curzon Ashton; Gretna v Ashton United; Harrogate Town v Fleetwood; Mossley v Blyth Spartans; Radcliffe v Alfreton; Warrington v Farsley Celtic; Workington v Atherton LR.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon v Southend Manor; Bowers v Concord; Brentwood v Great Wakering; Burnham Ramblers v Sawbridgeworth; East Ham v Hullbridge Sports; Maldon v Ford; Romford v Stansted.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham v Beaconsfield Sycob, Barkingside v St Margaretsbury; Brook House v Hanwell; Corinthian-Casuals v Walthamstow Pennant; Croydon v Cockfosters; Haringey v Tower Hamlets; Hillingdon v Willesden; Waltham Abbey v Brimsdown.

PARASOL COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Eton Wick; Cobham v Chipstead; Cranleigh v Viking Sports; DCA Basingstoke v Godalming and Guildford; Netherne v Farnham; Peppard v Westfield.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Biggleswade v Hoddesdon; Bracha Sparta v Harpenden; Dunstable Old Boys v Langford; Hatfield v Arlesey Town; Shillington v Letchworth GC; Welwyn GC v Royston; Wingate and Finchley v Potters Bar.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Odd Down; Calne v Taunton; Crediton v Chippenham; Mangotsfield v Tiverton; Saltash v Bristol Manor Farm; Torrington v Barnstaple; Westbury v Paulton.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chatteris v Hadleigh; Cornard v Wisbech; Diss v Fakenham; Great Yarmouth v Histon; Haverhill v Sudbury; March v Halstead; Newmarket v Felixstowe; Stowmarket v Harwich and Parkeston; Tiptree v Watton; Woodbridge v Lowestoft; Wroxham v Soham.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Lymington v Ryde Sports; Aerostructures v Cowes Sports; Andover v Bournemouth; BAT v Petersfield; Downton v Brockenhurst; East Cowes Vics v Bemerton Heath Harlequins; Horndean v Fleet; Portsmouth RN v Wimborne; Swanage and Herston v Gosport Borough; Thatcham v AFC Totton.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Shoreham; Burgess Hill v Pagham; Crowborough v Littlehampton; Newhaven v East Grinstead; Oakwood v Langney Sports; Peacehaven and Telscombe v Stamco; Ringmer v Whitehawk; Southwick v Eastbourne Town; Three Bridges v Portfield.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Greenwich; Canterbury v Furness; Chatham v Folkestone Invicta; Corinthian v Ramsgate; Cray v Dartford; Crockenhill v Kent Police; Deal v Sheppey; Faversham v Herne Bay.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon Utd v Carterton; Almondsbury v Cirencester; Banbury v Tuffley; Bicester v Swindon Supermarine; Brackley v Fairford; Kintbury v Cinderford; Pegasus Juniors v Highworth; Shortwood v North Leigh.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Long Buckby; Kempston v Stamford; Mirrlees Blackstone v Holbeach; Newport Pagnell v Northampton Spencer; Raunds v Desborough; S and L Corby v Eynesbury; Stotfold v Cogenhoe; Wellingborough v Bourne.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Brierley Hill v Stratford; Chasetown v Halesowen Harriers; Hinckley Athletic v Stapenhill; Oldbury v Knypersley; Paget v West Midlands Police; Pershore v Willenhall; Rocester v Boldmere St Michaels; Sandwell v Barwell; Shepshed v Bolehall; Shifnal v Rushall.

SKOL MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bloxwich v Shirley; Highgate v Sherwood Celtic; Knowle v Coleshill; Northfield v Upton; Olton Royale v Wellesbourne; Meir KA v Alvechurch Villa; West Midland Fire Service v Ansells.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper Town v Denaby; Brigg v Arnold; Glasshoughton Wel v Pontefract Collieries; Hallam v Ossett Town; Hucknall v North Ferriby; Liversedge v Lincoln United; Maltby MW v Ashfield; Ossett Albion v Sheffield; Pickering v Armthorpe Welfare.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bacup v Trafford; Blackpool Rovers v Glossop North End; Bradford Park Avenue v Eastwood Hanley; Burscough v Newcastle Town; Clitheroe v St Helens; Darwen v Nantwich; Holker Old Boys v Chadderton; Kidsgrove v Skelmersdale; Maine Road v Rossendale; Prescot v Bootle; Salford v Penrith.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v Durham; Chester-le-Street v Tow Law; Eppleton CW v Whitby; Ferryhill v Bedlington Terriers; Guisborough v Consett; Hebburn v Shildon; Murton v Peterlee; Northallerton v Dunston FB; Prudhoe v Seaham Red Star; West Auckland v RTM Newcastle.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Mill Hill Village v Wilan; Nottsborough v Old Grammarians; Southgate County v Parkfield; Ulysses v Wandsworth. Senior two: Duncombe Sports v O Bealonians; Ealing Association v Hale End Athletic; HAC v Corinthian-Casuals; O Finchleians v Albanian; UCL Academicals v Hadley. Senior three: BBC v Fulham Compton OB; Brent v Pollygons; City of London v Old Monovians; London Welsh v Westerns; Old Woodhouseians v Old Colleans. Senior four: Centymca v Old Simmarians; Economicals v London Airways; Inland Revenue v Hampstead Heathens; Mayfield v Bourneside; Pegasus v Cardinal Pole.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning v Clapham; Glyn v Hamptonians; Chertsey v Wilsonians; Ignatians v Aloysians. Invitation senior cup: Owens v Suttonians. Senior one: Phoenix v Isleworthians; Latymer v Wokingians; Edmontonians v Tiffinians. Senior three: Hamptonians R v Salvatorians, Glyn R v Vaughanians; Phoenix R v Greenfordians; Alpertonians v Chorleywood; Latymer R v School. Senior two: Enfield v Southallians; Vaughanians v Manorians, Camdenians v Westhamians; Meadonians R v Mill Hill Cty; Ignatians R v Tollingtonians; Minchendenians v J Fisher.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: First round: Ardinians v Foresters; Carthusians v Salopians; Harrovians v Reptonians; Lancing v Chigwellians; Wykehamists v Westminsters.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: East Barnet OG v O Latymerians; NatWest Bank v O Actonians, Norsemen v West Wickham; South Bank v Civil Service; Winchmore Hill v Midland Bank. Second division: Kew Association v Alexandra Park; Lloyds Bank v Polytechnic; O Parkonians v Broomfield; O Parmiterians v Carshalton. Third division: Bank of England v Alleyn OB; Brentham v Merton; Ibis v Reigate Priory; O Lyonians v Cuaco.

LONDON OLD BOYS: Senior Cup: Kingsburians v Danes; Shene v Meadonians; Brentwoods v Grocers.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Knowles Cup: Norfolk v Suffolk (10.30). Southern League: Vale of White Horse v Basingstoke (10.30). London Crisp Shield: Newham v Tower Hamlets (10.30); Sutton v Croydon (10.30). Northern Merit: Leeds v Blackburn (10.30). Welsh Glyncoed Shield: Wrexham v Kirkby Knowsley (10.30).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

McEwan's Inter-district championship

Edinburgh District v Glasgow District (at Myreside, Edinburgh, 2.0)
North and Midlands v South (at Rubislaw, Aberdeen, 2.0)

Irish inter-provincial championship

Munster v Connacht (at Thomond Park, Limerick, 2.30)
Ulster v Leinster (at Ravenhill, Belfast)

Pilkington Cup

Fourth round

Aspatria v Bedford (2.15)
Basingstoke v London Irish (2.0)
Bristol v Nottingham (3.0)
Coventry v Fylde (3.0)
Exeter v Rugby (3.0)
Harlequins v Saracens (2.15)
Leicester v Blackheath
London Scottish v Bath (3.0)
Moseley v Northampton (3.0)
Newcastle Gosforth v Wasps (3.0)
Orrell v West Hartlepool
Rotherham v Waterloo (2.15)
Sale v Harrogate (3.0)
Sandal v Lydney (2.15)
Wakefield v Gloucester

Swalec Cup

Fourth round

Aberavon Green Stars v Tenby Utd
Aberavon Quins v Tonyrefail
Abercrave v Aberavon
Abertillery v Abercynon
Blackwood v Glamorgan Wanderers
Blaina v Bonymaen
Bridgend v Cross Keys
Cardiff v Merthyr
Cardiff Institute v Llandovery
Carmarthen Quins v South Wales Police
Glynneath v Vardre Utd
Hartridge HSOB v Old Illtydians (2.0)
Llanelli v Caerphilly
Maesteg v Ebbw Vale
Maesteg Celtic v Penygraig
Morriston v Gilfach Goch
Narberth v Mountain Ash
Neath v Abercrave
Nelson v Fleur de Lys
Newbridge v Treorchy
Neyland v Dunvant
Old Penarthians v Bargoed
Pentyrch v Whitland
Pontypridd v Newport
Pyle v Tylorstown
Resolven v Pontypool
Rhyl v Llantwit Fardre
Ruthin v Builth Wells
Seven Sisters v Ystradgynlais
Swansea v Llanharan
Tondu v Pwllheli
Ystrad Rhondda v Penarth

Club matches

Barking v Old Mid-Whitgiftians (2.15)
Biggar v Glasgow HK (2.0)
Boroughmuir v Dundee HSFP (2.0)
Burton v Walsall
Clifton v Salisbury (3.0)
Corstorphine v Gala Star (2.0)
Currie v Hutchesons' Aloysian (2.0)
Edinburgh Acads v Edinburgh Wanderers (2.0)
Glasgow Acads v East Kilbride (2.0)
Grangemouth v Royal High (2.0)
Haddington v Watsonians (2.0)
Havant v Sudbury
High Wycombe v Richmond XV
Hull Ionians v Leeds (2.15)
Jed-Forest v Langholm (2.0)
Kelso v Heriot's FP (2.0)
Kendal v Vale of Lune (2.15)
Kilmarnock v Gala (2.0)
Kirkcaldy v Glenrothes (2.0)
Lichfield v Willenhall
London Welsh v Maidstone (2.15)
Madras Coll FP v Gordonians (2.0)
Musselburgh v Trinity Acads (2.0)
Otley v Middlesbrough (2.15)
Plymouth v Barnstaple
Reading v Ealing (2.15)
Rosslyn Park v Met Police
Selkirk v Melrose (2.0)
Sheffield v Morley
Stewartry v Wigtownshire (2.0)
Stewarts Mel FP v Preston Lodge (2.0)
West of Scotland v Stirling County (2.0)
Weston-super-Mare v Brixham (3.0)
Wharfedale v Old Crossleyans
Winnington Park v Liverpool St Helens

PILKINGTON SHIELD: Fifth round: London and South East: Darenth Valley v Whitstable; Ilford Wanderers v Tring; Old Bevonians v Ventnor; St Albans v HAC; Wisbech v Stowmarket. Midlands: Bromyard v Oakham; Queens v Erdington; Rushden and Higham v Birmingham City Officials. North: Blackpool v North Shields; Huddersfield YMCA v Winlaton Vulcans; Wallasey v Marple; Wibsey v Pontaland. South and South West: Beaconsfield v Burntwood; Buckingham v Bristol Saracens; Kingsbridge v Crewkerne; Tredworth v Calncross.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE: Premier division: Hemel Hempstead v Egremont; Leigh MW v West Hull; Mayfield v Dudley Hill.

HOCKEY

INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary round: Pool one (Aldenham School): St Albans v Old Loughtonians (12.30); Surbiton v East Grinstead (1.20); Firebrands v Teddington (2.10); Redbridge and Ilford v St Albans (3.0); Old Loughtonians v Surbiton (3.50); Firebrands v East Grinstead (4.40); Teddington v Redbridge and Ilford (5.30); Surbiton v St Albans (6.20); Old Loughtonians v East Grinstead (7.10); Firebrands v Redbridge and Ilford (8.0). Pool two (RAF Newton). Harborne v Doncaster (12.10); Stourport v Barford Tigers (1.0); Norton v Hull (1.50), Harborne v Stourport (2.40); Doncaster v Norton (3.30); Barford Tigers v Hull (4.20); Norton v Harborne (5.10); Doncaster v Barford Tigers (6.0); Stourport v Hull (6.50).

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division B: Ipswich and East Suffolk v O Southendian.

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier league: Chichester v Anchorians, Dulwich v Fareham. Regionals: Hampshire/Surrey: London University v Camberley. Kent/Sussex: Greenwich v Brighton; Sevenoaks v Blackheath.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Hemel Hempstead v Birmingham (7.30); Leicester v London (7.30), Manchester v Sunderland (7.30); Worthing v Thames Valley (8.0).

BOWLS: Denny Cup: Fifth round: Isis v Bristol; Ilminster v Teignbridge, Huntingdon v Avon Valley; North Walsham v Essex Co; Wey Valley v Croydon; Preston v Worthing; Cumbria v Hartlepool; Blackpool Borough v Nottingham; Lawson Park v Rushden; Roundwood v Ipswich; Brackley v Bentham, British Cellophane v Torbay; Stanley v Darlington; Old Mill v Sleaford; Cambridge Park v Cyphers, Folkestone v Adur.

EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia Championships (Olympia).

ICE HOCKEY: British League: Premier division: Milton Keynes v Humberside (6.30); Peterborough v Fife (6.30); Cardiff v Edinburgh (6.30). First division: Dumfries v Swindon (6.30); Blackburn v Paisley (6.0); Teesside v Guildford (6.30); Telford v Medway (7.30); Slough v Trafford (5.45).

LACROSSE: North of England League: First division: Boardman and Eccles A v Sheffield Steelers; O Waconians v Ashton; Sale v Mellor; Poynton v Timperley; Stockport v Cheadle.

SWIMMING: Scottish short-course championships (Ayr).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

European championship

Group eight

Greece v Scotland (Olympic Stadium, Athens, 6.0)

FA Carling Premiership

Chelsea v Liverpool (4.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

Burnley v Middlesbrough (3.02)
* Reading v Wolverhampton (2.55)
West Bromwich v Luton

Third division

Mansfield v Chesterfield (12.0)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Derry v Dundalk (3.15), Shelbourne v Shamrock (3.15); Sligo v Cork (3.15).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Regal Trophy

Third round

Batley v St Helens (3.15)
Dewsbury v Castleford
Hull v Wigan (3.15)
Keighley v Sheffield (3.15)
Whitehaven v Bradford (2.0)
Widnes v Oldham
Workington v Leeds

Stones Bitter Championship

Second division

Carlisle v Rochdale (2.0)
Hunslet v Huddersfield (at Elland Road, 3.30)
Leigh v Highfield
Swinton v Hull KR

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Chorley v Saddleworth.

YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY COUNTY CUP: Final: Heworth v Skirlaugh (at Ryedale York, 3.15).

RUGBY UNION

Pilkington Cup

Fourth round

Richmond v Tabard (2.30)

CIS Under-21 county championship

Buckinghamshire v Berkshire (at Aylesbury, 2.0)
Middlesex v Sussex (at St Mary's Coll, Twickenham, 2.0)
Oxfordshire v Dorset and Wiltshire (at Shrivenham, 2.0)

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL: England v Holland (at Wasps, 2.0).

HOCKEY

INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary round: Pool one (Aldenham School): Teddington v Surbiton (9.30); Firebrands v St Albans (10.20); Teddington v East Grinstead (11.10); Old Loughtonians v Redbridge and Ilford (12.0); Surbiton v Firebrands (12.50); East Grinstead v St Albans (1.40); Old Loughtonians v Teddington (2.30); Redbridge and Ilford v Surbiton (3.20); Old Loughtonians v Firebrands (4.10); Teddington v St Albans (5.0); East Grinstead v Redbridge and Ilford (5.50). Pool two (RAF Newton): Norton v Stourport (10.50); Harborne v Barford Tigers (11.40); Hull v Doncaster (12.30); Barford Tigers v Norton (1.20); Doncaster v Stourport (2.10); Harborne v Hull (3.0).

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Whitley v Edinburgh (6.30); Durham v Basingstoke (6.30); Sheffield v Fife (6.30); Peterborough v Milton Keynes (6.30); Cardiff v Bracknell (6.30). First division: Paisley v Swindon (6.30); Trafford v Dumfries (at Bradford, 5.30); Blackburn v Teesside (6.0); Solihull v Telford (7.0); Medway v Slough (6.0); Guildford v Lee Valley (6.0).

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham v Worthing (6.0); Leopards v Derby (5.0); Sheffield v Chester (6.15).

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia Championships (Olympia)

SWIMMING: Scottish short-course championships (Ayr).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.0 unless stated

Regal Trophy

Third round

Salford v Warrington (3.0)

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

First round

Millom v Northampton
Moldgreen v Embassy
Walney Central v Hensingham
Wigan St Patricks v Worth Village

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MARTIN LYNCH



French import Nakir, who won the Arkle Trophy last season, attempts to defy top weight in the Frogmore Handicap Chase at Ascot

Whispering Steel to enjoy trip

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

THE answer to this afternoon's feature race, the Betterware Cup at Ascot, may lie as much in the pages of an atlas as the form book.

A quick glance at a map will show the distance from Kim Bailey's stables in Upper Lambourn to the royal racecourse is only about 45 miles and involves a journey of little more than an hour, even by horsebox. All of which is crucial to the chances of Whispering Steel.

A magnificent chaser, with Cheltenham Gold Cup pretentions, he may be: the equine version of Alan Whicker, he most certainly is not. In fact, the eight-year-old loathes travelling long distances so much that his owner, Michael Gillow, decided if his pride and joy was to have any chance of winning the prestige chases in the south he had to move from Gordon Richards's yard in distant Cumbria.

So far, the relocation seems to be working. After an abortive mission at nearby Newbury, where he and Coonawara fell together early on in a three-horse race, he travelled the short journey down the M4 to Cheltenham last week and showed why he was regarded as one of the top novice chasers two seasons ago. Always travelling strongly, he led on the bridle three out and stayed on well to win from Indian Tonic.

Significantly, with today's contest in mind, was the way Whispering Steel raced happily just behind the strong pace set by Indian Tonic. In the past he has often won from the front. When the tapes go up this afternoon, the early pace promises to be ferocious. Raymylette, the impressive all-the-way winner of the First National Bank Gold Cup here a month ago, knows only one way to race; flat out from the start. He is likely to be taken on for the lead by Young Hustler, third in this year's Cheltenham Gold Cup, who likes to race prominently. And then there is Lord Relic, another runner who likes to force the pace.

There is every chance they will cut each other's throats and the race could be teed up for a horse like Whispering Steel. Kim Bailey is certainly hoping for a strong gallop. "They went too slowly for him at Cheltenham last time," he reflected yesterday.

Dubacilla, twice a course and distance winner, is an obvious danger if you ignore her disappointing run in the Hennessy, but the drying ground will not help her cause anyway. At around 7-1, **Whispering Steel** looks tremendous value.

Away from Ascot — where **Berude Not To**, **Nakir** and **Relkeel** would be my other suggestions — Richard Dunwoody's decision to ride at Uttoxeter can prove rewarding for his followers.

Valfinet looks to have a simple task in the Harlow Bros Novices' Chase, but **Mugoni Beach** may offer some value against Jonjo O'Neill's potentially smart Jigginstown in the Manny Bernstein Bookmakers Novices' Handicap Chase. A good second behind Approach The Stars at Haydock, the Martin Pipe-trained chaser should appreciate today's extended trip.

On the same card, **River Mandate** is another who will appreciate the stiffer test of stamina posed by the Heathyards Engineering Handicap Chase and the progressive seven-year-old can oblige for Tim Forster.

At Nottingham, David Nicholson appears to have found a winning opportunity for **Konvekta King** in the Archform Ltd Intermediate Chase, while **Lien De Famille** can go well at rewarding odds in the A & E Plastics National Hunt Novices' Hurdle.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BOOK OF MUSIC
(12.50 Ascot)

Next best: Whispering Steel
(1.55 Ascot)

ASCOT

THUNDERER

12.15 *Berude Not To* | 1.55 *Lord Relic*
12.50 Martin's Lamp | 2.30 Storm Alert
1.20 DORANS PRIDE (nap) | 3.00 Relkeel

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.15 KENNEL GATE CASTLE NOVICES HURDLE
(Grade II: £6,280: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

101 11-11 BERUDE NOT TO 35 (CD,F,S) (G Addiscott) O Sherwood 5-11-7 .... J Osborne 92
102 232-113 CHIEF'S SONG 24 (D,G) (Mrs A Devine) S Dow 4-11-7 .... A Dicken 91
103 02343-4 COURT MASTER 45 (BF) (Sir Fitzroy Talbot) R Buckler 6-11-0 .... B Powell 98
104 STONEY VALLEY 155F (R Ellis) J Jenkins 4-11-0 .... N Williamson —
105 2U43-4 SUPREME MASTER 8 (T Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 4-11-0 .... A Maguire 87
106 P1141-1 HOPS AND POPS 14 (D,F,G,S) (B Dennett) R Alner 7-10-13 .... S Earle 99
107 0 KARINSKA 29 (G Whiting) M Chapman 4-10-9 .... W Worthington —
108 21 ON AIR 10 (D,S) (J Raus) N Gaselee 6-10-9 .... M A Fitzgerald 80

BETTING: Evens Berude Not To, 3-1 On Air, 7-2 Hops And Pops, 7-1 Chief's Song, 10-1 Supreme Master, 20-1 Court Master, 33-1 Stoney Valley, 66-1 others.

1993: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

BERUDE NOT TO beat Herbert Lodge 7l in 8-runner grade II Flowers Fine Ales Novice Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft). CHIEF'S SONG 6½l 3rd of 4 to Relkeel in conditions hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft). COURT MASTER dist 4th of 7 to Connaught Crusader in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to soft). STONEY VALLEY fair performer up to 1m 2f on Flat when trained by P Chapple-Hyam. Sold 7,000gns at Newmarket Autumn Sales. SUPREME MASTER 13¾l 4th of 13 to Simple Arithmetic in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft). HOPS AND POPS beat Huge Mistake 15l in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft). KARINSKA tailed off last of 8 finishers behind Over The Pole in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good). ON AIR beat Niyaka 12l in 7-runner novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft).
Selection: BERUDE NOT TO

12.50 NOEL NOVICES CHASE BBC1
(Grade II: £9,465: 2m 3f 110yd) (5 runners)

201 334-111 LEOTARD 29 (C,G,S) (C Heath) O Sherwood 7-11-10 .... J Osborne 86
202 /1612/1 MARTIN'S LAMP 35 (G,S) (Mr & Mrs F Welch) D Nicholson 7-11-10 .... A Maguire 99
203 22/11U2 PETOSKU 29 (BF,G,S) (F Mills) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-7 .... D Bridgwater 86
204 1P2300- BOOK OF MUSIC 255 (G) (Mrs D Lousada) K Bailey 6-11-3 .... N Williamson —
205 1F5PP-2 KING CREDO 14 (G,S) (G Gorrall) S Woodman 9-11-3 .... M A Fitzgerald 86

BETTING: 4-5 Martin's Lamp, 3-1 King Credo, 7-2 Leotard, 6-1 Book Of Music, 10-1 Petosku.

1993: EASY BUCK 6-11-3 C Maude (8-1) N Gaselee 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

LEOTARD beat I Have Him 2l in 5-runner novice chase here (2m, good). MARTIN'S LAMP beat Absalom's Lady 7l in the 5-runner grade II Flowers IPA Novices' Chase at Cheltenham (2m, soft). PETOSKU 10l 2nd of 4 to Coloanny Boy in novice handicap chase here (3m 110yd, good). BOOK OF MUSIC 15l 7th of 13 to Bama Boy in novice hurdle here (2m 4f, soft) on final start last season. KING CREDO 3l 2nd of 4 to Sound Reveille in the grade II Henry VIII Novices' Chase at Sandown (2m, good).
Selection: LEOTARD

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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Edinburgh (first race, 12.15), Lingfield Park (12.30).
TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 12.30), Hereford (12.45).
WEDNESDAY: Hexham (12.40), Ludlow (1.00), Southwell (12.20)
THURSDAY: No racing.
FRIDAY: No racing.
SATURDAY: No racing.
MONDAY (Boxing Day): Wolverhampton (AW, 1.25), Ayr (1.05), Hereford (1.05), Huntingdon (12.30), Kempton Park (C4, 12.45), Market Rasen (12.55), Newton Abbot (12.45), Sedgefield (12.40), Wetherby (1.00), Wincanton (12.40).
Flat meetings in bold

1.20 LONG WALK HURDLE BBC1
(Grade I: £25,384: 3m 1f 110yd) (6 runners)

301 43-5101 BOG FROG 17 (S) (Mrs D Scarsbrick) F Doumen (Fr) 5-11-7 .... A Kondrat —
302 22-4321 CAB ON TARGET 14 (F,G,S) (N Hurst) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-7 .... P Niven 96
303 30-R606 CARDINAL RED 22 (B,F,G) (Mrs F Walwyn) B De Haan 7-11-7 .... B Powell —
304 111F-12 DORANS PRIDE 13 (G,S) (T Doran) M Hourigan (Ire) 5-11-7 .... K O'Brien 99
305 101/2-21 HEBRIDEAN 21 (C,S) (P Deal) D Nicholson 7-11-7 .... A Maguire 88
306 1101-34 MEDITATOR 14 (G,S) (Miss J Doyle) Miss J Doyle 10-11-7 .... S Curran 87
307 21P-422 TOP SPIN 7 (C,F,G,S) (J Long) J Jenkins 5-11-7 .... J Osborne 80
308 30-1431 WHAT A QUESTION 16 (G,S) (Mrs M Valentine) M Morris (Ire) 6-11-2 .... N Williamson 82

BETTING: 7-4 Dorans Pride, 9-4 Hebridean, 4-1 Bog Frog, 11-2 Cab On Target, 20-1 What A Question, 25-1 Top Spin, 33-1 Meditator, 100-1 Cardinal Red.

1993: SWEET DUKE 6-11-7 C Llewellyn (7-2) N Twiston-Davies 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

BOG FROG beat Quart 3l in 11-runner conditions hurdle at Enghien (2m 3f, good to soft). CAB ON TARGET beat Your Well in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good to soft) with MEDIATOR (12lb worse off) 24l 4th. DORANS PRIDE 4l 2nd of 7 to Danoli in the grade I Hattons Grace Hurdle at Fairyhouse (2m 4f, yielding to soft). HEBRIDEAN beat Spring Marathon 8l in 6-runner grade II Akzo Nobel Long Distance Hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, good to soft) with MEDIATOR (4lb worse off) 21½l 3rd. TOP SPIN 5l 2nd of 9 to Fatack in conditions hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 4f, good to soft). WHAT A QUESTION beat Calmos 3l in 4-runner novice chase at Thurles (3m 6f, good to yielding).
Selection: CAB ON TARGET

1.55 BETTERWARE CUP BBC1
(Handicap chase: £21,037: 3m 110yd) (8 runners)

401 3F3B6-1 YOUNG HUSTLER 49 (CD,F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-12-0 .... D Bridgwater 93
402 1113-10 DUBACILLA 21 (CD,BF,G,S) (H Cole) D Nicholson 8-11-3 .... A Maguire 87
403 12/111-1 RAYMYLETTE 28 (C,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) N Henderson 7-10-9 .... M A Fitzgerald 95
404 15UP-21 WHISPERING STEEL 8 (D,G,S) (J Gillow) K Bailey 8-10-9 (5ex) .... N Williamson 95
405 11012/6 COUNTRY MEMBER 21 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Williams) A Turnell 9-10-6 .... L Harvey 83
406 30/1F-P2 LORD RELIC 21 (S) (Mrs H Clarke) M Pipe 8-10-5 .... J Osborne 99
407 3/435P-2 VERY VERY ORDINARY 14 (CD,G,S) C Brooks 8-10-4 .... D Gallagher 81
408 F2/636-3 COOL GROUND 14 (D,G,S) (Whitcombe Manor Ltd) D Elsworth 12-10-0 .... P Holley 80

BETTING: 11-4 Raymylette, 3-1 Lord Relic, 4-1 Dubacilla, 5-1 Whispering Steel, 8-1 Country Member, Young Hustler, 20-1 Very Very Ordinary, 50-1 Cool Ground

1993: YOUNG HUSTLER 6-11-10 C Llewellyn (11-8 fav) N Twiston-Davies 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

YOUNG HUSTLER beat Run For Free 15l in the grade II Charlie Hall Chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good). DUBACILLA beat Docklands Express 2½l in 4-runner handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. RAYMYLETTE beat Couldnt Be Better 1l in the grade II First National Limited Handicap Chase here (2m 3f 110yd, good) with LORD RELIC (3lb better off) led 7th. WHISPERING STEEL beat Indian Tonic 4l in 7-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). COUNTRY MEMBER short-head 2nd of 7 to Givus A Buck in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good) in March 1993. LORD RELIC 2l 2nd of 16 to One Man in the grade III Hennessy Gold Cup Handicap Chase (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) with COUNTRY MEMBER (4lb better off) 20l 6th and DUBACILLA (4lb better off) 2l 7th. VERY VERY ORDINARY 12l 2nd of 11 to Ballymac Girl in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good). COOL GROUND dist 3rd of 5 to Master Oats in the grade II Rehearsal Limited Handicap Chase at Chepstow (3m, soft).
Selection: LORD RELIC

2.30 FROGMORE HANDICAP CHASE
(£9,485: 2m) (4 runners)

501 1111-5 NAKIR 14 (D,S) (Jim Lewis) S Christian 6-11-10 .... J Osborne 95
502 513F-15 STORM ALERT 35 (CD,F,G,S) A Turnell 8-11-9 .... S McNeill 96
503 21213-1 UNCLE ERNIE 10 (CD,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-11-6 M Dwyer 99
504 3-13121 OH SO GRUMPY 28 (CD,F,B) (Mrs E Queally) Mrs J Harrington (Ire) 6-10-4 A Maguire 98

BETTING: 2-1 Storm Alert, 9-4 Nakir, 3-1 Uncle Ernie, 7-2 Oh So Grumpy.

1993: BILLY BATHGATE 7-10-3 M A Fitzgerald (7-1) N Henderson 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

NAKIR 11¾l 5th of 6 to Viking Flagship in the Grade I Mitsubishi Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown (2m, good). STORM ALERT beat OH SO GRUMPY ¾l in 6-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good to soft) on penultimate start. UNCLE ERNIE beat Political Tower ½l in 2-runner handicap chase at Haydock (2m, soft). OH SO GRUMPY beat Sybillin 8l in 4-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good).
Selection: NAKIR

3.00 KNIGHTS ROYAL HURDLE (£5,368: 2m 110yd) (4 runners)

601 121-111 RELKEEL 14 (D,S) (Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 5-11-8 .... A Maguire 99
602 21P-014 GROUND NUT 16 (D,S) (Mrs R Haskins) R Buckler 4-11-2 .... B Powell 82
603 F410/4F- HOLY WANDERER 21F (D,F) (Mrs J Leck) D Arbuthnot 5-10-12 N Williamson 87
604 433411- STYLUS 273 (D,G,S) (M O'Toole) M Chapman 5-10-12 .... W Worthington 88

BETTING: 1-5 Relkeel, 8-1 Ground Nut, 10-1 Holy Wanderer 14-1 Stylus.

1993: ABSALOM'S LADY 5-10-7 P Holley (13-8 fav) D Elsworth 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

RELKEEL beat Kadastrof 3½l in 7-runner grade II William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft). GROUND NUT 6½l 4th of 11 to Southampton in handicap hurdle at Windsor (3m, good). HOLY WANDERER fell last when 6th and beaten in the 24-runner grade III County Handicap Hurdle won by Dizzy at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good) on final start last season. STYLUS beat Rosgill 5l in 15-runner claiming hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, soft) on final start last season.
Selection: RELKEEL (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S Dow	3	10	30.0	J Osborne	22	88	25.0
A Turnell	3	11	27.3	S McNeill	5	21	23.8
M Pipe	22	82	26.8	M Dwyer	5	25	20.0
Jimmy Fitzgerald	4	15	26.7	M A Fitzgerald	7	39	17.9
O Sherwood	12	48	25.0	A Maguire	9	54	16.7
D Nicholson	8	37	21.6	B Powell	3	25	12.0



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Bog Frog can leap to victory

ASCOT
BBC1

12.50: Despite winning his three starts over fences, Leotard was far from convincing here last time and looks vulnerable. The shorter trip is *against Petdsku, whose tendency to jump left will be* costly here. King Credo had *the best hurdles form but* was far from foot-perfect on his debut. Martin's Lamp *impressed at Cheltenham* and is a big danger even on *this drier ground*, but **Book Of Music** *is the choice on his* debut over fences. Every inch a chaser, he suffered from the virus last season but is now with Kim Bailey, who described him as one to follow at his open day.

1.20: Dorans Pride's second to Danoli at Fairyhouse three weeks ago reads well but Michael Hourigan's stable is still not firing on all cylinders and his runner appears to need the mud. Cab On Target won a weakish race at Sandown but will appreciate the extra distance. Hebridean won impressively at Newbury last month but, with two of the fancied horses running well below form, it is hard to know what he beat.

Bog Frog, trained by François Doumen, who has guided The Fellow to such success, looks good value. *Beaten only five lengths in* the French Champion Hurdle (over this trip), he outpointed *Ubu III (runner-up* in the 1992 Stayers' Hurdle) in May and has won decisively since then.

1.55: see above

RICHARD EVANS

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

12.30 Beauman. 1.00 Valfinet. 1.30 Henry VIII. 2.05 *Change The Reign.* 2.35 *Warfield.* 3.05 *Couldnt Be Better.* 3.35 Luv-U-Frank.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: *1.30 BEAUREPAIRE.*

GOING: SOFT SIS

12.30 TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PAST PUPILS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,061: 2m) (16 runners)

1 1 HIGH LOW 19 (D,S) W Jenks 6-11-7 .... T Jenks (3) 94
2 F BEAUMAN 18 P Evans 4-11-0 .... R Dunwoody 96
3 00- DIFFERENT TIMES 49F Miss L Siddall 4-11-0 .... F Leahy (5) —
4 0 D K REUNION 12 R Hollinshead 4-11-0 .... S Wynne (3) —
5 FLASHMAN 124F B Llewellyn 4-11-0 .... Mr J L Llewellyn (5) —
6 3 GONE FOR A BURTON 18 P Makin 4-11-0 .... Richard Guest 99
7 KEDWICK 123F (V) P Hedger 5-11-0 .... M Richards —
8 0 MY MAN ON DUNDRUM 17 B Curley 5-11-0 .... E Murphy —
9 462/ NEWARK ANTIQUEFAIR 784 B McMahon 6-11-0 .... B Clifford —
10 0 NIGELSCHINAPALACE 15 Miss S Wilton 5-11-0 .... G McCourt —
11 PETRACO 54F N Smith 6-11-0 .... Mr M Rimell (7) —
12 04 PRESTON GUILD 18 A Forbes 4-11-0 .... T Eley (3) 98
13 RIVER HAWK 824F Mrs P Robeson 5-11-0 .... J A McCarthy —
14 56 TIGHT FIST 16 Miss H Knight 4-11-0 .... R Farrant 85
15 0- CASTLE ROUGE 255 D McCain 5-10-9 .... D McCain (5) —
16 000- MISS PALEFACE 278 Mrs J Retter 6-10-9 .... S Burrough —

5-2 Gone For A Burton, 7-2 High Low, 5-1 Beauman, 6-1 Preston Guild, 16-1 Petraco, 20-1 My Man On Dundrum, 25-1 others.

1.00 HARLOW BROS NOVICES CHASE (£2,762: 2m) (4)

1 P-11 VALFINET 16 (CD,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-6 .... R Dunwoody 99
2 -2P6 JAMES THE FIRST 15 (F,G,S) P Nicholls 6-11-0 .... C Maude 77
3 0-0F MISTY GREY 56 G Pierro 5-11-0 .... R Farrant —
4 2/64 NADIAD 22 (F,G) D McCain 8-11-0 .... D McCain (5) 50

1-6 Valfinet, 7-1 Nadiad, 8-1 James The First, 14-1 Misty Grey.

1.30 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,050: 3m 110yd) (14)

1 66-1 BANNTOWN BILL 9 (D,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-13 .... R Dunwoody 85
2 P-16 HENRY VIII 63 (D,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-7 .... T Jenks (3) 80
3 2F4P OXFORD QUILL 42 (S) R Curtis 7-10-11 .... D Morris 93
4 6-52 BEAUREPAIRE 26 R Alner 6-10-7 .... G McCourt 99
5 0430 ROOTSMAN 46 Mrs M Jones 4-10-5 .... G Bradley 85
6 00-0 NO DOZING 30 W Brisbourne 5-10-5 .... S Wynne (3) —
7 0-P3 JUNGLE KING 15 Mrs J Renfree-Barons 5-10-4 .... R Greene 88
8 -FF0 CATS RUN 9 J Upson 8-10-1 .... C Maude 98
9 221U TURNER PRIZE 4 (BF,G) M Ryan 4-10-1 .... J Ryan 85
10 P00- GLEN MIRAGE 234 (F) Mrs F White 9-10-0 .... Miss S White 95
11 4-62 TONY MURPHYS LADY 15 J Upson 8-10-0 .... D Leahy (3) 93
12 5/64 DORLIN CASTLE 23 L Lungo 6-10-0 .... F Leahy (5) 82
13 045/ GRANGEDEAL ILLEGAL 773 Miss S Wilton 6-10-0 .... M Kolosina (7) —
14 066/ WITNEY GIRL 872 C Jackson 8-10-0 .... W Humphreys —

3-1 Turner Prize, 7-2 Banntown Bill, 5-1 Beaurepaire, 8-1 Henry VIII, Tony Murphys Lady, 12-1 Jungle King, Dorlin Castle, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 42 winners from 132 runners, 31.8%; T Forster, 12 from 43, 27.9%; Mrs J Retter, 5 from 18, 27.8%; O Sherwood, 13 from 48, 27.1%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 8 from 36, 22.2%; J J O'Neill, 5 from 26, 19.2%.

JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody, 34 winners from 145 rides, 23.4%; G Bradley, 5 from 22, 17.9%; G McCourt, 12 from 75, 16.0%; T Eley, 9 from 84, 10.7%. [illegible]

2.05 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,931: 3m 2f) (13)

1 50/1 JIGGINSTOWN 36 (G) J J O'Neill 7-11-10 .... G Bradley 89
2 212 CHANGE THE REIGN 29 (CD,G,S) Miss A Embiricos 7-11-9 .... Mr T McCarthy (7) 99
3 2F22 ZAMIRAH 19 (F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-9 .... T Jenks (3) 94
4 53/2 MUGONI BEACH 9 (G,S) M Pipe 9-11-8 .... R Dunwoody 92
5 21/6 CARRICK LANES 22 (S) O Sherwood 7-11-5 .... M Richards 79
6 -6PF ROYAL PIPER 14 (S) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 7-10-12 .... A Tory —
7 5-2P IVE CALLED TIME 32 P Nicholls 6-10-9 .... C Maude 88
8 52-0 TRAVEL BOUND 31 J Parkes 9-10-9 .... Richard Guest 97
9 -P53 SUNSET AGAIN 18 (F) P Ritchens 9-10-8 .... S Fox (5) —
10 5-04 TRIMAGE 28 T Forster 6-10-5 .... R Farrant 94
11 3P-5 MISTER HOCHBERG 24 (F,S) Mrs V Ward 8-10-4 .... R Davis 79
12 PF5P GRAIN MERCHANT 12 (V) F Yardley 8-10-0 .... J Da Costa —
13 -P4F MISS CAPULET 14 (B,G,S) T Donnelly 7-10-0 .... T Eley (3) —

4-1 Jigginstown, 9-2 Mugoni Beach, 5-1 Change The Reign, Zamirah, 6-1 Carrick Lanes, 10-1 Trimage, 12-1 Sunset Again, 20-1 others.

2.35 QUEENSWAY CHINA CHALLENGE TROPHY (Handicap hurdle: £2,766: 2m 4f 110yd) (16)

1 0255 CHIEF RAIDER 10 (D,F,S) J Wade 6-11-12 .... D Ryan (7) 93
2 1-U0 BICKERMAN 10 (CD,F,G,S) J Spearing 11-11-6 .... Miss T Spearing (7) 89
3 1-41 NICK THE BEAK 28 (S) J Upson 5-11-6 .... T Jenks (3) 93
4 U12- LEAVENWORTH 281 (G,S) Mrs J Retter 10-11-4 .... S O'Donnell (7) 94
5 -221 DUAL IMAGE 10 (F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-11-3 .... E Callaghan (7) 92
6 4223 HIGH GRADE 10 (D,G,S) Miss S Wilton 6-11-3 .... T Eley (3) 90
7 0-PP CLURICAN 7 (S) N Tinkler 5-11-1 .... E Husband (5) —
8 P-50 WORLD WITHOUT END 16 (V,S) W Clay 5-11-1 .... Diane Clay 92
9 2F-2 MR PICKPOCKET 33 (S) J Akehurst 6-11-0 .... G Bradley 88
10 0362 MY SWAN SONG 18 (F,G) J Smith 9-10-10 .... F Leahy (5) 93
11 021- CAPTAIN MY CAPTAIN 289 (G) R Brotherton 6-10-5 G McCourt 88
12 D-22 SHARED GOLD 7 (C,BF,S) J Bosley 4-10-4 .... DOUBTFUL 92
13 1-34 VISCOUNT TULLY 19 (S) C Jackson 9-10-4 .... W Humphreys 99
14 35-0 WARFIELD 53 (S) P Nicholls 7-10-2 .... R Dunwoody 94
15 P-00 HEATHYARDS BOY 45 (C,D,G,S) R Hollinshead 4-10-0 .... S Wynne (3) 92
16 3334 LAND OF THE FREE 23 (F,S) R Baker 5-10-0 .... Richard Guest 89

4-1 Dual Image, 6-1 Nick The Beak, 7-1 Mr Pickpocket, 8-1 Leavenworth, My Swan Song, 10-1 others.

3.05 HEATHYARDS ENGINEERING HANDICAP CHASE (£3,436: 2m 7f) (6)

1 3-5P MUDAHIM 24 (F,G,S) C Broad 8-11-10 .... T Jenks (3) 88
2 -112 COULDNT BE BETTER 28 (G,S) C Brooks 7-11-9 .... G Bradley 99
3 -321 GREENHILL RAFFLES 22 (V,F,G,S) P Hobbs 8-11-5 .... R Dunwoody 92
4 30-3 AVONBURN 16 (F,G,S) P Hedger 10-11-3 .... M Richards 90
5 1322 TOUREEN PRINCE 15 (C,G,S) Miss H Knight 11-11-2 R Farrant 92
6 1-11 RIVER MANDATE 24 (G,S) T Forster 7-10-13 .... G McCourt 96

6-4 Couldnt Be Better, 7-2 River Mandate, 4-1 Greenhill Raffles, 5-1 others.

3.35 LEVY BOARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£2,113: 2m) (16)

1 10- FEELS LIKE GOLD 276 (S) M Pipe 6-11-7 .... T Dascombe (7) —
2 31- LUV-U-FRANK 255 (S) M Pipe 5-11-7 .... R Dunwoody —
3 CREDO BOY K Bishop 5-11-0 .... R Greene —
4 0- DANCING SUPREME 231 W Mann 4-11-0 .... Miss S Wallin —
5 DEFINITE MAYBE P Nicholls 4-11-0 .... C Maude —
6 0 KARICLEIGH LAD 32 Mrs J Retter 5-11-0 .... S Burrough —
7 PP- KINDLY MOVE 238P O Sherwood 6-11-0 .... J A McCarthy —
8 0 LIAM'S LOSS 40 J Parkes 5-11-0 .... Richard Guest —
9 0 PACIFIC RAMBLER 40 G Moore 4-11-0 .... N Stocks (7) —
10 23 PARIAH 22 R Fisher 5-11-0 .... F Leahy (5) —
11 VANCE T Donnelly 6-11-0 .... T Eley (3) —
12 4 WILD WEST WIND 52 Miss H Knight 4-11-0 .... R Farrant —
13 00- YOUWONNA 198 B Preece 4-11-0 .... T Wall —
14 MILLY LE MOSS R Eckley 5-10-9 .... V Slattery —
15 0- NICKY'S CHOICE 220 R Brotherton 5-10-9 .... G McCourt —
16 0- WINDERMERE TERRACE 255 M Meagher 4-10-9 .... G Bradley —

5-4 Luv-U-Frank, 3-1 Feels Like Gold, 4-1 Pariah, 5-1 others.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

12.55 Col Buckmore. 1.25 Fox Sparrow. 1.55 Blazing Dawn. 2.25 Red Beacon. 2.55 Pims Gunner. 3.25 Four Deep.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

12.55 ST PAULS NOVICES CHASE (£2,206: 2m) (9)

1 -113 SPANISH FAIR 21 (D,F,G) Mrs S Bramall 6-12-0 .... J Burke (3) —
2 P-31 GYMCRAK SOVEREIGN 17 (CD,G,S) G Holmes 6-11-7 .... R Garritty —
3 -603 AIYBAK 65F (G) K Morgan 6-11-0 .... A S Smith —
4 F-4 ANOTHER RED 11 W Raw 6-11-0 .... A Thornton —
5 4323 COL BUCKMORE 31 (F,G) G Richards 6-11-0 .... A Dobbin —
6 2F40 DALESIDE 29 (BF) W Bentley 6-11-0 .... C Hawkins —
7 PF GOLDEN FIDDLE 21 J Oliver 6-11-0 .... B Storey —
8 66-3 SPONSOR LIGHT 24 (S) J Gledson 10-11-0 .... K Johnson —
9 50 FRESH LADY 17 D Cosgrove 5-10-9 .... D Walsh (5) —

7-4 Gymcrak Sovereign, 9-4 Spanish Fair, 3-1 Col Buckmore, 7-1 Aiybak, 14-1 Another Red, Sponsor Light, 16-1 Daleside, 25-1 others.

1.25 PICTON NOVICES HURDLE (£1,622: 2m) (16)

1 36-0 AUCTION KING 17 A Smith 5-11-0 .... S Turner —
2 616/ BLASTER BINS 623P (F) J Johnson 6-11-0 .... N Doughty —
3 22 FOX SPARROW 19 (BF) N Tinkler 4-11-0 .... A Dobbin —
4 HOME SAFE 471F T Etherington 4-11-0 .... A Thornton —
5 00 JONAEM 7 Mrs E Slack 4-11-0 .... M Moloney —
6 20 LET'S GET LOST 7 Mrs J Ramsden 5-11-0 .... R Garritty —
7 0000 MAJOR JACK 11 P Monteith 4-11-0 .... J Callaghan —
8 30-0 MARKED CARD 11 Mrs M Kendall 6-11-0 .... Mrs M Kendall —
9 SHYNON 74F W Bentley 4-11-0 .... N Bentley —
10 F04/ SURE TO WIN 53F J Carr 5-11-0 .... N Smith —
11 FP-P WHITRIGG LAD 84 R Cockburn 5-11-0 .... A Cockburn —
12 0/0 JIM'S JEWEL 26 J Goulding 6-10-9 .... J Supple (5) —
13 0 LOWLANDS SCRIBE 28 B Wilkinson 4-10-9 .... D Bentley (3) —
14 P MAKENA 78 Mrs A Tomkinson 4-10-9 .... K Johnson —
15 MERRY MERMAID 44F J Bosomley 4-10-9 .... D Byrne —
16 F NAWTINOOKEY 40 P Monteith 4-10-9 .... B Storey —

5-2 Fox Sparrow, 3-1 Let's Get Lost, 6-1 Auction King, Shynon, Major Jack, 12-1 Blaster Bins, 14-1 others.

1.55 ST PETERS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,322: 2m) (12)

1 PP00 SKELETOR 4 (D,G,S) W Cunningham 11-12-0 .... W Fry (7) —
2 24-4 ISSYIN 26 (B,C,S) M W Easterby 7-12-0 .... R Garritty —
3 -P44 POSITIVE ACTION 23 (CD,F,G,S) M Barnes 8-11-12 .... A Dobbin —
4 /5-0 BLACK SPUR 24 (D,F,G,S) J Charlton 12-11-9 .... B Storey —
5 P/6- ITYFUL 420 (B,G) B Wilkinson 8-11-2 .... D Bentley (3) —
6 4-33 THE LORRYMAN 37 (F) L Lungo 6-11-1 .... F Perratt (5) —
7 6642 BLAZING DAWN 21 (G,S) V Thompson 7-10-13 Mr M Thompson —
8 3P4P FAVOURED VICTOR 23 (G,S) K Morgan 7-10-10 .... A S Smith —
9 5/3- GONER HOUSE 235 (F,G) M McCarthy 9-10-4 .... A Thornton —
10 3355 SILVER HAZE 29 (D,F,S) J Wade 10-10-3 .... K Jones —
11 -3F3 PRESSURE GAME 12 (D,F) B Mactaggart 11-10-3 .... G Lee (5) —
12 P263 HIGHLY DECORATED 35 (G) Mrs S Smith 9-10-0 .... Mr L Donnelly (7) —

7-2 Blazing Dawn, 4-1 Issyin, 6-1 The Lorryman, 7-1 Highly Decorated, 8-1 Pressure Game, Positive Action, 10-1 others.

2.25 SELLFIELD SELLING HURDLE (£1,976: 2m) (12)

1 54/ ABBENOIR 280P (D,G,S) Mrs M Kendall 12-11-7 Mrs M Kendall
2 0P-1 SUDDEN SPIN 28 (CD,G) S Norton 4-11-7 .... O Pears
3 0/6 DOMAN 11 Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-0 .... D Byrne
4 22-3 INGLETONIAN 11 B Wilkinson 5-11-0 .... D Bentley (3)
5 0-60 MUST BE MAGICAL 14 P Bradley 6-11-0 .... A Thornton
6 -000 OWT ON 7 J Hellens 7-11-0 .... A Lamach (3)
7 /6-0 PORT SUNLIGHT 14 (V) P Evans 6-11-0 .... A S Smith
8 00-2 RED BEACON 28 J Goulding 7-11-0 .... J Supple (5)
9 F440 SHARP N' SMOOTH 12 W Kemp 7-11-0 .... S McDougall
10 00 SHOULDOFOONE 22 R Fahey 5-11-0 .... A Dobbin
11 WILD ADVENTURE 82F D Chapman 5-11-0 .... R Garritty
12 -PP0 STEPPING 17 J Turner 4-10-9 .... W Fry (7)

11-4 Sudden Spin, 3-1 Red Beacon, 7-2 Ingletonian, 9-2 Sharp N' Smooth, 6-1 Port Sunlight, 10-1 Must Be Magical, 20-1 Doman, 25-1 others.

2.55 GILLING HANDICAP CHASE (£2,758: 3m 1f 110yd) (9)

1 -231 CHOCTAW 26 (CD,F,G,S) P Beaumont 10-11-12 .... B Grattan (7)
2 -221 HOUGHTON 24 (F,G,S) J Johnson 8-11-9 .... N Doughty
3 PP-P CONCERT PAPER 51 (G,S) M H Easterby 10-11-2 .... R Garritty
4 -222 PIMS GUNNER 26 (BF,F,G) M Hammond 6-11-2 .... A Dobbin
5 U-PP KILDOWNEY HILL 18 (B) J J O'Neill 8-10-10 .... R McGrath (7)
6 1420 THE GREEN FOOL 7 (F,G,S) V Thompson 7-10-9 .... Mr M Thompson
7 0135 OLE OLE 29 (F,S) Mrs E Moscrop 8-10-7 .... K Johnson
8 -P03 NAWRIK 29 (D,S) L Lungo 5-10-6 .... F Perratt (5)
9 -345 TRUELY ROYAL 17 (CD,G,S) J Charlton 10-10-5 .... B Storey

5-2 Choctaw, 3-1 Pims Gunner, 4-1 Houghton, 6-1 Ole Ole, 7-1 Truely Royal, 8-1 The Green Fool, 12-1 Nawrik, 25-1 others.

3.25 AMPLEFORTH HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,180: 3m 1f 110yd) (15)

1 /64- HELIOPSIS 25F (G,S) M Hammond 8-12-0 .... A Dobbin
2 5232 TIGHTER BUDGET 7 (F,S) Mrs E Slack 7-11-9 Mrs Diane Sayer
3 1223 FOUR DEEP 12 (BF,F,G,S) J Johnson 6-11-2 .... N Doughty
4 3P34 MHEMEANLES 17 (F) M H Easterby 4-10-9 .... R Garritty
5 -065 VERY EVIDENT 11 (S) G Moore 5-10-9 .... J Callaghan
6 0003 KIR 11 (B,F,G) V Thompson 6-10-8 .... Mr M Thompson
7 1042 INTEGRITY BOY 11 (B,F,G,S) N Tinkler 7-10-8 .... Mrs A Farrell
8 -005 CANDID LAD 51 (F) F Storey 7-10-4 .... B Storey
9 PP65 SHELTON ABBEY 23 (B,D,F,G,S) J Wade 8-10-4 .... K Jones
10 -524 LITTLE BIG 101 (F,G) J J O'Neill 7-10-0 .... R McGrath (7)
11 3-20 MANWELL 11 (S) B Temple 7-10-0 .... G Lee (5)
12 46-0 DENTICULATA 12 P Spottiswood 6-10-0 .... F Perratt (5)
13 005- YACHT CLUB 207 (D,F) J Eyre 12-10-0 .... O Pears
14 6-00 FINDOGLEN 11 D Alder 8-10-0 .... K Johnson
15 -000 LORD TIM 11 (V) J Hellens 6-10-0 .... A Lamach (3)

3-1 Kir, 4-1 Integrity Boy, 5-1 Tighter Budget, 6-1 Mhemeanles, Heliopsis, 7-1 Four Deep, 8-1 Very Evident, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Morgan, 7 winners from 26 runners, 26.9%; L Lungo, 6 from 23, 26.1%; N Tinkler, 7 from 35, 20.0%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 14 from 71, 19.7%; M Hammond, 12 from 79, 15.2%; M H Easterby, 11 from 76, 14.5%.

JOCKEYS: D Byrne, 6 runners from 42 rides, 14.3%; R Garritty, 12 from 86, 14.0%; W Fry, 3 from 22, 13.6%; N Doughty, 7 from 52, 13.5%; N Bentley, 5 from 43, 11.6%; J Callaghan, 8 from 73, 11.0%; B Storey, 12 from 118, 10.2%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Market Rasen

Going: soft (good to soft in back straight)

12.40 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, DAME PROSPECT (Gary Lyons, 5-1); 2, Set-Em-Alight (R Davis, 4-1); 3, Doctor-J (P McLoughlin, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Side Bar (4th), 8 Sweet Caroline, 9 Mister Blake (5th), 12 Monazite, Wededa, 14 Negd (6th), 25 Auntie Fay, Jalaris. 11 ran. 10l, 10l, 1l, 20l, 7l. Miss M Rowland at Nottingham. Tote £7.80; £1.70, £2.90, £1.70. DF: £46.80. Trio: £16.30. CSF: £27.20. Tricast £93.08. Bought in 4,800gns.

1.10 (3m 1f ch) 1, TOOGOOD TO BE TRUE (L Wyer, 11-10 fav); 2, Hudson Bay Trader (Mrs A Farrell, 5-1); 3, Brave Defender (J Railton, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Deep Decision (f), 10 Gathering Time (4th), 12 Sandy's Beacon (f), 33 Negatory (r). 7 ran. 2½l, dist, dist. M H Easterby at Malton. Tote: £1.80; £1.60, £2.10. DF: £4.00. CSF: £7.02.

1.40 (3m hdle) 1, VALERIOS KING (G McCourt, 13-8 fav); 2, Five Flags (Richard Guest, 6-1); 3, Malawi (L Wyer, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 3 Kenilworth (4th), 11-2 Easby Joker (6th), 14 Steel Fabricator (pu), 16 Ask For Barney (5th), 66 Midon (pu). 8 ran. ¾l, ½l, 3l, 9l, 25l. S Christian at Kinnersley. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £6.60. CSF: £11.88.

2.10 (2m 4f ch) 1, NORTHERN SQUIRE (L Wyer, 3-1); 2, Dark Oak (L O'Hara, 13-8 fav); 3, Master's Crown (W Worthington, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Mr Optimistic (f), 11-2 Easby Mandrina (4th), 10 Caldecott (pu), Jalingo (6th), 33 April City (5th), 40 Moon Monkey (bd). 9 ran. Sh hd, dist, 14l, 1½l, 6l. J Jefferson at Malton. Tote: £4.20; £1.50, £1.60, £2.70. DF: £3.20. Trio: £15.50. CSF: £8.54. Tricast: £77.37.

2.40 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, CAMITROV (G Upton, 4-6 fav); 2, Shoofe (A S Smith, 6-1); 3, Come On Dancer (P McLoughlin, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 2 Newlands-General (f), 25 Cheeka (4th). 5 ran. 2½l, 25l, dist. S Christian at Kinnersley. Tote: £1.60; £1.40, £2.70. DF: £3.60. CSF: £5.20.

3.10 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, TRISTAN'S COMET (P McLoughlin, 13-1); 2, Native Worth (M Newton, 14-1); 3, Balaat (W Worthington, 40-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Wake Up (6th), 5 Tejano Gold (4th), Wordy's Wonder, 6 Scaraben, 8 Wamdha (5th), 10 Vicosa, 16 Captain Tancred, 20 Peteus (r), Who's Tef, 40 Golden Shine. 13 ran. 3l, 4l, 1½l, 12l, ½l. J L Harris at Melton Mowbray. Tote £16.30; £2.80, £3.00, £6.60. DF: £211.70. Trio: £865.60. CSF: £168.52. Tricast: £5,839.19.

Jackpot: £13,337.20 (0.49 winning tickets. Pool of £9,580.28 carried forward to Ascot today).
Placepot: £89.60. Quadpot: £74.90.

Uttoxeter

Going: soft

12.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, CHALLENGER DU LUC (R Dunwoody, 13-2); 2, My Rossini (T Wall, 5-1); 3, Bear Claw (J Osborne, 7-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Pistol River, 8 Crano Hill (4th), 12 Shimba Hills, 16 Holy Sting (6th), 20 Lobilio (5th), 33 King's Cross, Storm Force Ten, 50 Badawi, Deal With Honor (f), Glenfir (pu), Nothing Doing (r), Stephanenise, Turfmans Vision. 16 ran. 8l, 7l, 2½l, 2½l, 7l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote £6.10; £2.30, £1.70, £1.60. DF: £23.80. CSF: £37.24.

1.00 (2m 5f ch) 1, MO ICHI DO (T Eley, 10-1); 2, Man Of The Grange (F Leahy, 6-1); 3, Sailor Jim (A P McCoy, 6-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 7-2 L'Uomo Piu (4th), 5 Howgill (5th), 20 Zemil (ur). 6 ran. 4l, 1½l, 30l, 12l. Miss S Wilton at Stoke-on-Trent. Tote £8.40; £3.70, £1.50. DF: £22.40. CSF: £55.37.

1.30 (2m hdle) 1, PETITJEAN (D J Burchell, 7-1); 2, Alaskan Heir (T Eley, 7-1); 3, Cobb Gate (M Stevens, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 10-11 fav Much Too Clever (4th), 8 Tuscania (6th), 12 Kismodim, 14 Alf, Crab 'N Lobster (5th), 16 Whitelock Quest, 20 Daily Sport Girl (pu), 33 Hadier, 50 Acha Larka (pu). 12 ran. 8l, 5l, 10l, 4l, 7l. D Burchell at Ebbw Vale. Tote: £8.70; £2.00, £1.80, £2.60. DF: £19.30. CSF: £56.16.



Pipe: Uttoxeter win

2.00 (2m 7f ch) 1, MAD THYME (M A Fitzgerald, 3-1); 2, Maamur (W Marston, 7-2); 3, Fast Thoughts (R Dunwoody, 7-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 General Wolfe (4th), 12 Master Orchestra (pu), 16 Crew Girl (pu), 20 Kinvarra (f), 33 Mindyerow[illegible] (f), Murphy Street (bd), Windehouse (5th), 50 Kingofthesewingers (f). 11 ran. 8l, ½l, 7l, 1½l. N Gaselee at Upper Lambourn. Tote £4.40; £2.10, £1.60, £2.00. DF: £9.10. CSF: £13.35.

2.30 (2m hdle) 1, SAINT [illegible]IEL (J Lodder, 5-2); 2, Legal Artist (L Harvey, 16-1); 3, *Runaway Pete* (B Powell, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Zealous Kitten (5th), 4 Fontanays (4th), 16 Gymcrak Stardom, Skittle Alley (6th). 7 ran. 1l, 3½l, 6l, 10l, 14l. F Jordan at Leominster. Tote £2.80; £1.80, £5.10. DF: £41.60. CSF: £32.58.

3.00 (2m ch) 1, SPREE CROSS (G Bradley, 9-2); 2, Coonawara (R Dunwoody, 8-11 fav); 3, Young Snugfit (J Osborne, 9-4). ALSO RAN: 66 Turoldus (4th). 4 ran. 4l, 9l, dist. Mrs D Haine at Newmarket. Tote £5.40. DF: £2.80. CSF: £7.91.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, NIPPER REED (D Gallagher, 9-2); 2, Heathyards Crusade (S Wynne, 3-1 jt-fav); 3, Strike-A-Pose (Mr J L Llewellyn, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 jt-fav Idiom (5th), 8 Plucky Punter (4th), 12 Flight Of Song (pu), 33 Noble Risk (6th). 7 ran. NR: Barryben. 12l, 25l, 14l, 15l, 1l. R Simpson at Foxhill. Tote: £5.60; £3.50, £1.90. DF: £11.80. CSF: £17.19. Tricast: £51.36.

Placepot: £1,040.30. Quadpot: *not won* (pool of £157.00 carried forward to Uttoxeter today).

Catterick Bridge

Going: good to soft

12.50 (2m ch) 1, Seagull Hollow (R Garritty, 4-6 fav); 2, Judicial Field (9-2); 3, Mils Mij (3-1). 6 ran. Nk, 5l. M H Easterby. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £2.70. DF: £2.90. CSF: £4.19.

1.20 (2m hdle) 1, Lochnagrain (P Niven, 8-11 fav); 2, Speaker Weatherill (16-1); 3, Sabbaq (66-1). 13 ran. 2½l, 15l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.60; £1.30, £1.40, £13.00. DF: £7.10. CSF: £16.78.

1.50 (2m 3f ch) 1, Strong Approach (A Dobbin, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Down The Road (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Tresidder (15-2). 6 ran. 3l, 30l. J Charlton. Tote: £3.60; £2.20, £1.80. DF: £2.60. CSF: £8.65.

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, Bold Pursuit (M Dwyer, 3-1 fav); 2, Will Soon (10-1); 3l, Brilliant Disguise (4-1); 3l Jendorcet (25-1). 9 ran. 2½l, 7l. Jimmy Fitzgerald. Tote: £2.90; £1.40, £2.00. Brilliant Disguise £1.20, Jendorcet £2.70. DF: £18.30. CSF: £31.22.

2.50 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Portonia (P Niven, 10-11 jt-fav); 2, Rabton Whin (10-11 jt-fav). 2 ran. ½l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.60.

3.20 (3m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Moonshine Dancer (G Lee, 5-6 fav); 2, Ridwan (2-1); 3, Who Sir (8-1). 6 ran. ½l, dist. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £2.20; £2.00, £1.10. DF: £2.00. CSF: £2.98.

Placepot: £3.60. Quadpot: £20.30.

☐ Phil Tuck, the former leading National Hunt jockey, has been appointed a stewards' secretary by the Jockey Club. Tuck, who won the Cheltenham Gold Cup on board Burrough Hill Lad in 1984, has been employed as a starter by the Jockey Club since February this year, and has also acted as a steward at Cartmel and Carlisle since retiring from race-riding in 1990.

☐ Zieten, trained by John Gosden, is one of three overseas runners in the £563,227 Sprinters Stakes (6f) at Nakayama, Tokyo, tomorrow.

هكذا من الأصل

Julian Muscat meets a jockey braving a run of unlucky breaks

Bones of contention curb Llewellyn

It is a long walk from the entrance at Cheltenham General Hospital to Montpelier Ward, the temporary residence for those with broken limbs. In negotiating the maze of corridors, you wonder how Carl Llewellyn, the National Hunt jockey, will react to inquiries about his propensity for falling heavily, for attracting the flying hooves, for breaking bones with an all too regular monotony.

He is to be found flat on his back, immobilised by two crushed vertebrae at the base of his spine. But some things never change. For all jockeys, mid-mornings are the preserve of mobile telephones, and Llewellyn cannot break the habit as he catches up on the previous day's gossip. "You got kicked, did you? Yes, I heard about that. It sounded nasty but it could have been a lot worse."

The last sentence betrays a jump jockey's life. Their sensitivities are dulled to the point of non-existence. In the final analysis, they know that one fall will accompany every ten rides. The Professional Riders' Insurance Scheme will process a claim for injuries every third day. Is it any wonder, in these crushing circumstances, that the only sane approach is to muse about what might have been, as Llewellyn does when describing his latest accident, being unseated from Percy Thrower in a novices' steeplechase at Cheltenham last Friday?

"After the fall I knew I'd hurt my back. It was painful but I thought I'd just banged it about a bit, not fractured the vertebrae. At the time I thought 'I'm unlucky', but when I saw a replay of the fall I thought differently. I'm very lucky; I could have been crippled." Never mind that Llewellyn suffered his unhappy fate on the very day he returned from a month-long hiatus with four broken bones in his foot.

Declan Murphy, who suffered severe head injuries in a fall at Haydock Park in May, must wait another five months before he can resume race riding. Tests on Murphy have proved the extent of his recovery but the possibility remains that further damage could be caused were he to return so soon. "I will serve my sentence, which ends on the anniversary of my fall," Murphy said yesterday.

It is on such evidence that Llewellyn is in a league of his own in the accident-prone stakes. As with others in his predicament, he gets by on large doses of hope and what the future promises. He copes easily enough with the threat of boredom and depression. But the clock ticks expensively through the idle days, particularly for a leading player like Llewellyn, who, given an uninterrupted season, will earn anything between £50,000 and £80,000.

However, insurance nets him just 20 per cent of that sum; he is effectively penalised for his frequent spells of inactivity. A severe ankle fracture towards the end of last season curtailed his riding, itself the basis upon which injured jockeys are graded for insurance purposes. Given his status, he should be in grade ten, the highest and most lucrative, but he slipped down to grade six and a further erosion is now inevitable.

It is a serious predicament, as Llewellyn illustrates. "I almost bought a big house two months ago. It's lucky that the deal fell though because I would have been in real trouble. At the moment my mortgage is small and I'm just about covering my bills." Nonetheless, his natural optimism does not take long to resurface. "The separate medical insurance was definitely a good idea. I think I've got all my monthly premiums back inside two days."

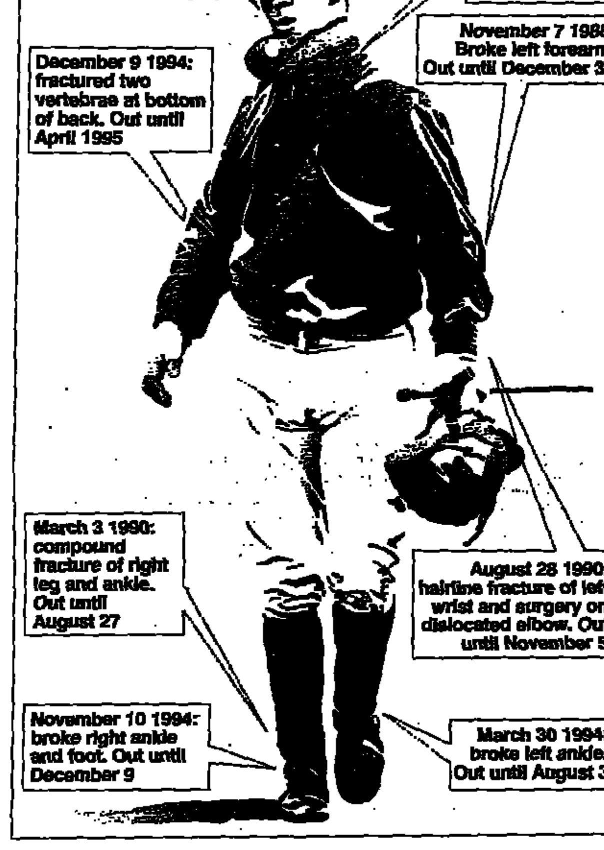
If the salary alone appears handsome, it is as nothing when set against the daily peril of disability, the real threat of head injuries and the onset of arthritis that will ultimately riddle their frail frames. The copper band round Llewellyn's wrist, together with the pack of cod liver oil tablets, are evidence that the Welshman, 29, already awakes to the rhythms of aching bones and joints.

So why does he do it? Why bother when the financial rewards cannot remotely offer a security much beyond a retirement probably only six years distant? It is here that reality departs from reason as Llewellyn's eyes register amazement for the first time. He then provides instant confirmation that jump jockeys are a breed apart. "I know others think it strange but it's what I live for. I love winning: it gets your blood up. I love the speed, the jumping, the competition. Sure, we're in so deep that we can't see out, but to us it's just a normal job."

There are, he says, a thousand dangerous things he would never dream of trying. The prospect of bungee-jumping, a common enough experience these days, would positively terrify him "even though accidents are so few and far between as to constitute little or no risk. Llewellyn's idea of unbridled pleasure is to conquer the Grand National course, as he did with his victory aboard Party Politics in 1992.

Even in his present predicament, he looks forward to a return to Aintree. "Something would have to go wrong for me not to be back in time for the Grand National meeting. But if everything was to go right I would not rule out Cheltenham."

He does not, though, embrace the philosophy employed by some of his colleagues, whose reputations were founded on the flawed principles of "go anywhere, ride anything". However, for reasons wholly beyond his comprehension, Llewellyn's career, like his body, has been punctured by some sickening falls. That he retains the zest of a bounding apprentice is fully within his comprehension, but he could talk all day without adequately finding the words to explain it to others.




ALISTAIR GRANT

Llewellyn celebrates one of the happier moments of an interrupted career with the Nick Gaselee-trained Party Politics, his winning ride in the 1992 Grand National

NOTTINGHAM

THUNDERER

12.45 Swedish Invader. 1.15 Slew Man. 1.45 Catchapenny. *2.15* Lead Vocalist. 2.45 Scotton Banks. 3.15 Konvekta King. 3.40 Ima Delight.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.15 BOTTLES (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

12.45 HUDSON LTD JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,268: 2m) (17 runners)

1 2PP BETABETCORBETT 122 B Baugh 10-12 Gary Lyons
2 04 BLUE RAVEN 15 P Hobbs 10-12 Peter Hobbs
3 05 COLONEL COLT 28 (B) R Dickin 10-12 D Meredith (3)
4 3 DOCKMASTER 19 Miss M Milligan 10-12 L Wyer
5 0 LE KHOUMF 8 R Simpson 10-12 Mr E Williams (7)
6 LUCAYAN CAY 122F Mrs J Pitman 10-12 W Marston
7 45 LUNAR MISSION 49 (B) J Eustace 10-12 P Hide
8 D MR B REASONABLE 8 D Robinson 10-12 M Robinson
9 MUZRAK 59F M Hammond 10-12 Mr C Bonner (5)
10 3 NIGHT IN A MILLION 31 (BF) Mrs J Cecil 10-12 T Kent
11 236 QUICK DECISION 68 J Cresswell 10-12 W McFarland
12 SERIOUS DANGER 128F Miss H Knight 10-12 J F Titley
13 STROLLING MINSTREL 231F B Rothwell 10-12 A P McCoy (3)
14 22 SWEDISH INVADER 82 J White 10-12 J Railton
15 54 DANIELLE HABIBI 16F C C Elsey 10-7 A Procter (3)
16 5 GUNNY'S GIRL 29 F Jordan 10-7 J Lodder
17 WINABIS 155F T Watson 10-7 J R Kavanagh

7-2 Swedish Invader, 9-2 Night In A Million, 5-1 Dockmaster, 7-1 Le Khoumf, 8-1 Blue Raven, 10-1 Serious Danger, 12-1 Muzrak, 14-1 others.

1.15 HUDSON LTD JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,250: 2m) (16)

1 AMANCIO 140F G Harwood 10-12 M Perrett
2 6 ASTRAL INVASION 15 (B) W Clay 10-12 Diana Clay
3 BANDON CASTLE 161F B Rothwell 10-12 L Wyer
4 CLIFTON BEAT 168F P Hobbs 10-12 Peter Hobbs
5 4 GOLDEN STAR 17 M W Easterby 10-12 Mr S Swiers
6 3 KATINYO 23 Mrs N Macauley 10-12 A P McCoy (3)
7 0 LINDON LAD 16 J White 10-12 J Railton
8 P35 MERRYHILL GOLD 9 J Curtis 10-12 L O'Hara
9 MILL CITY 47F Miss L Siddall 10-12 J R Kavanagh
10 23 QUASIMODO 16 Miss C Johnsey 10-12 W McFarland
11 3 SLEW MAN 86 (BF) M Pipe 10-12 J Lower
12 P TWISP 57 M Tompkins 10-12 R Campbell
13 GHIKA 58F P Bevan 10-7 T Wall
14 PF GOLDENBERRY 17 J Parkes 10-7 M Hourigan
15 4 MICROLITE 21 M Hammond 10-7 W Marston
16 00 STARICA 5 (B) W Elsey 10-7 R Marley

7-2 Slew Man, 5-1 Amancio, 7-1 Golden Star, Microlite, 8-1 Katinyo, Quasimodo, 10-1 Clifton Beat, 14-1 others.

1.45 STAN MELLOR HANDICAP CHASE (£3,132: 3m 3f 110yd) (13)

1 P-FF CHANNELS GATE 51 (BF,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 10-11-12 J Railton
2 -241 ROXTON HILL 24 (S) C Brooks 9-11-5 M Berry (7)
3 414- THE TARTAN SPARTAN 259 (CD,F,S) M Wilkinson 10-11-2 P Ward (7)
4 2613 MANDER'S WAY 25 (G,G,S) Mrs T McInnes Skinner 9-11-2 G Upton
5 P4-5 CATCHAPENNY 16 (B,G,S) Miss H Knight 9-11-2 J F Titley
6 0-12 EMERALD STORM 18 (BF,G,S) N Henderson 7-10-10 J R Kavanagh
7 -06F PUNCH'S HOTEL 11 (B,S) R Rowe 9-10-4 D O'Sullivan
8 1P-4 THE PORTSOY LOON 24 (S) G Thorner 7-10-4 Peter Hobbs
9 /PP K C'S DANCER 18 (F,S) R Dickin 9-10-3 D Meredith (3)
10 P5-3 JOLLY JAUNT 57 (S) Mrs D Baker 9-10-0 W Marston
11 5-33 MWEENISH 18 (G,S) J Webber 12-10-0 R Bellamy
12 -006 THE FORTIES 25 (F,G) T Bill 9-10-0 M Hourigan
13 5404 WOODLANDS GENHIRE 15 (V,F) P Pritchard 9-10-0 A P McCoy (3)

3-1 Emerald Storm, 4-1 Roxton Hill, 5-1 Channels Gate, 6-1 Mander's Way, 7-1 Catchapenny, 8-1 The Portsoy Loon, 12-1 Mweenish, 14-1 others.

2.15 A & E PLASTICS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,740: 2m) (21)

1 -051 BARNEY'S GIFT 35 (CD,S) O Brennan 6-11-5 M Brennan
2 0-13 LEAD VOCALIST 14 (D,BF,S) R Rowe 5-11-5 M Perrett
3 3-41 MORE DASH THANCASH 17 (D,G) Mrs M Jones 4-11-5 A P McCoy (3)
4 BASSENHALLY Mrs P Sly 4-10-12 R Marley
5 BENDOR MARK M Wilkinson 5-10-12 D O'Sullivan
6 000- BLACK STAG 269 M Wilkinson 5-10-12 P Ward (7)
7 0- DUKE OF LANCASTER 231 Mrs J Pitman 5-10-12 W Marston
8 0 HE FLIES BY NIGHT 32 S Christian 5-10-12 G Upton
9 1332 HUGE MISTAKE 14 (G) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 J Railton
10 02-4 LIEN DE FAMILLE 32 (BF,S) J Quinn 4-10-12 L Wyer
11 05 LYDEBROOK 22 Mrs A Hewitt 5-10-12 O J Moffatt (3)
12 00- MONKS JAY 196 G Thorner 5-10-12 Peter Hobbs
13 0 PHARARE 40 R Woodhouse 4-10-12 M Hourigan
14 0-5 POLAR RHAPSODY 7 Miss H Knight 5-10-12 J F Titley
15 2- SEACHANGE 248 M Wilkinson 5-10-12 G Hogan (5)
16 60 SOVEREIGN SPRAY 9 J Curtis 4-10-12 L O'Hara
17 SPINNAKER N Gaselee 4-10-12 J R Kavanagh
18 UP THE HOBORIAN 14 (G) J Young 7-10-12 W McFarland
19 4-P4 HIGHLAND HEIGHTS 22 C Smith 6-10-7 M Ranger
20 0 JACOB'S WIFE 16 J Webber 4-10-7 R Bellamy
21 00-0 STORMY PETREL 15 P Walwyn 5-10-7 P Hide

3-1 More Dash Thancash, 7-2 Lead Vocalist, 5-1 Lien De Famille, 6-1 Huge Mistake, 8-1 Barney's Gift, 12-1 Spinnaker, 14-1 Lydebrook, 16-1 others.

2.45 MAGUIRE AND BATTY PLASTERING CONTRACTORS NOVICES CHASE (£3,163: 3m 110yd) (6)

1 5-11 SCOTTON BANKS 14 (D,G,S) M H Easterby 5-11-10 L Wyer
2 1- SPARTAN SILVER 18 (G) N Gaselee 8-11-5 P Hide
3 F0P- CELTIC TOKEN 238 P Blockley 5-11-0 Mr K Green
4 5-54 JENDEE 8 (S) J Hellens 6-11-0 M Hourigan
5 14-2 KADI 23 (BF,G,S) D Nicholson 5-11-0 W Marston
6 14-4 SPARKLING SUNSET 15 (S) N Henderson 6-11-0 J R Kavanagh

6-4 Scotton Banks, 3-1 Kadi, 7-2 Sparkling Sunset, 5-1 Spartan Silver, 20-1 others.

3.15 ARCHFORM LTD INTERMEDIATE CHASE (£3,735: 2m) (4)

1 3-11 BOTTLES 22 (D,F,G,S) J Banks 7-11-10 S Keightley
2 6-21 KONVEKTA KING 7 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholson 6-11-10 W Marston
3 066- LUCKNAM DREAMER 303 Mrs B Waring 6-11-0 E Byrne
4 5412 MASTER BOSTON 14 (G,S) R Woodhouse 6-11-0 L Wyer

4-6 Konvekta King, 5-2 Bottles, 11-4 Master Boston, 20-1 Lucknam Dreamer.

3.40 CLIFTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,658: 2m 5f 110yd) (15)

1 2PP- VITAL WITNESS 225 (S) K Morgan 7-11-10 A P McCoy
2 0-65 IMA DELIGHT 18 (S) Mrs P Sly 7-11-8 Lorna Brand (5)
3 50-0 SYLVIA BEACH 18 (F,S) P Murphy 8-11-8 D Bohan (5)
4 P-3F PLACE STEPHANIE 14 (S) R Rowe 8-11-4 D Carson (3)
5 0P-5 JYMJAM JOHNNY 22 J Akehurst 5-11-8 P Hide
6 300- DISTINCTIVE 245 M Wilkinson 5-11-2 P Ward (5)
7 0-20 ROSS GRAHAM 15 (V) Mrs B Waring 6-11-1 D Matthews
8 314- TITIAN GIRL 249 (B,D,B) Miss L Siddall 5-10-11 B Hogan
9 -045 FOREVER SHINEING 45 S Mellor 4-10-10 Chris Webb (5)
10 1243 NUNS CONE 28 (F) R Dickin 6-10-7 D Meredith
11 -651 TARGET LINE 9 (S) Mrs S Smith 4-10-2 R Wilkinson (5)
12 /06 EMPEROR CHANG 71 (CD,F) G Fierro 7-10-1 G Tormey (3)
13 6-50 AUSTRAL JANE 15 (B) G Thorner 4-10-0 Pat Thompson (3)
14 /P0 COUNTRY JIMMY 17 (G) S Campion 12-10-0 M Lane (7)
15 0-PP MARIE BABY 61 (S) Graeme Roe 10-10-0 D J Moffatt

4-1 Nuns Cone, 6-1 Forever Shineing, Ross Graham, 7-1 Vital Witness, 8-1 Jymjam Johnny, Place Stephanie, 10-1 Ima Delight, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Henderson, 8 winners from 28 runners, 28.6%; N Gaselee, 4 from 18, 22.2%; D Nicholson, 10 from 51, 19.6%; M W Easterby, 3 from 16, 18.8%; Miss H Knight, 3 from 16, 18.8%.

JOCKEYS: G Upton, 3 winners from 18 rides, 16.7%; L Wyer, 4 from 27, 14.8%; M Brennan, 5 from 38, 13.9%; J Railton, 3 from 22, 13.6%; W Marston, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Catterick Bridge: 1.55 Issyin 2.55 Kildowney Hill. Lingfield Park: 11.40 Mr Slick, Lady Pui. 12.10 Maple Leaf Candy. 12.40 Carfax. Nottingham: 12.45 Colonel Colt. Lunar Mission. 1.15 Astral Invasion, Starica. 3.40 Austral Jane, Ross Graham. Uttoxeter: 12.30 Kedwick. 2.35 World Without End. 3.05 Greenhill Raffles.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

11.40 Baileys Sunset. 12.10 Dark Shot. 12.40 Arc Bright. 1.10 *Speedy Classic*. 1.40 Oakbury. 2.10 Ela Man Howa. 2.40 Hawaii Storm. 3.10 Our Shadee.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 Ballyranter. 2.40 Triple Joy.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

11.40 ACE AMBULANCE CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,553: 5f) (10 runners)

1 1025 BAILEYS SUNSET 44 (D,BF,F) M Johnston 8-12 T Williams 3
2 5244 BON SECRET 3 T Naughton 8-8 S Sanders (5) 1
3 0450 JUST JESTING 10 G L Moore 8-4 A Whelan (5) 5
4 0005 MR SLICK 21 (B) N Callaghan 8-4 D Harrison 8
5 4061 MUSICAL FANTASY 10 (C,G) B Meehan 8-3 N Varley (5) 4
6 000 WHITTINGHAM GIRL 31 J Berry 8-1 Le Tolboll 10
7 6000 BILLS PLOUGHGIRL 21 J Moore 7-13 N Adams 6
8 6040 LADY PUI 21 (B,D,S) J Berry 7-13 Darren Moffatt (5) 2
9 6050 MISSTINGER 17 W Muir 7-11 G Bardwell 9
10 0304 ABBEY HOUSE 89 (B) R Guest 7-9 D Wright (5) 7

3-1 Baileys Sunset, 4-1 Musical Fantasy, 9-2 Bon Secret, 5-1 Just Jesting, 6-1 Abbey House, 8-1 Mr Slick, Lady Pui, 10-1 others.

12.10 ALEX GORRIE MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 2-Y-O: £3,259: 7f) (11)

1 4040 DARK SHOT 64 J Berry 9-0 G Carter 6
2 FOSTERS TOP J Fitch-Heyes 9-0 N Adams 8
3 00 SABICAS 99 S Williams 9-0 P McCabe (5) 3
4 SEE YOU AGAIN R Hannon 9-0 R Perham 5
5 2020 ALWAYS GRACE 25 (BF) Miss G Kelleway 8-9 T Williams 2
6 0005 BALLY WONDER 16 D Morris 8-9 C Rutter 10
7 5400 CUBAN REEF 75 D Cosgrove 8-9 L Newton (5) 9
8 00 ICEBLOCK 10 M McCormack 8-9 A Clark 1
9 000 MAPLE LEAF CANDY 40 (B) J Akehurst 8-9 J Quinn 7
10 00 MARONETTA 21 M Ryan 8-9 D Biggs 4
11 34 STORM FLASH 49 (BF) Lord Huntingdon 8-3 D Harrison 11

6-4 Dark Shot, 9-4 Storm Flash, 11-4 See You Again, 8-1 Always Grace, 20-1 Cuban Reef, 25-1 Fosters Top, 33-1 Bally Wonder

12.40 MODENA MERCHANTS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,600. 2m) (14)

1 2861 STALLED 16 (CD,G,S) P Walwyn 4-11-7 Marchioness Blandford (7) 13
2 2625 STRAT'S LEGACY 16 (C,BF,F,G) D Arbuthnot 7-11-4 Mrs D Arbuthnot (3) 8
3 5004 ARC BRIGHT 10 (B,CD,G) R Hollinshead 4-11-2 T Cuff 9
4 2302 PRIDE OF BRITAIN 16 (C,D,BF,G,S) L Cottrell 5-11-1 L Jefford (5) 5
5 -460 MARDOOD 41 (D,F,S) D Chapman 9-11-0 Miss R Clark (5) 10
6 0235 CAPTAIN MARMALADE 3 (C,G) D Thom 5-11-0 Miss Diana Jones 8
7 3200 DAWN FLIGHT 3 J Jenkins 5-10-13 Mrs K Hills (7) 4
8 0006 DINNER AT EIGHT 16 (G) R O'Sullivan 4-10-13 Miss A Harwood 1
9 6000 RAGTIME SONG 38 (CD,F,G) A Moore 5-10-10 Miss J Winter (3) 14
10 0000 STAR QUEST 16 (D,G,S) J Jenkins 7-10-9 R Johnson (5) 7
11 -340 NEARLY HONEST 3 R Hodges 6-10-2 Mrs B Tory (7) 2
12 2505 WOODMANS STAR 61 J Sheehan 4-10-2 P Close (5) 11
13 0002 KENYATTA 16 (C,G) A Moore 5-10-1 Mrs J Moore (7) 12
14 3-04 CARFAX 26J (B) R Head 9-9-13 Miss L McIntosh (7) 6

3-1 Stalled, 4-1 Pride Of Britain, 5-1 Arc Bright, 7-1 Kenyatta, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Harris, 6 winners from 18 runners, 33.3%. K McAuliffe, 3 from 10, 30%. B Hills, 23 from 78, 29.5%. M Prescott, 21 from 92, 22.8%. J Berry, 17 from 76, 22.4%. Lord Huntingdon, 36 from 118, 22.0%.

JOCKEYS: Mr T Cuff, 4 winners from 9 rides, 44.4%. Emma O'Gorman, 40 from 174, 23.0%. Stephen Davies, 14 from 90, 15.6%; Miss Diana Jones, 3 from 15, 20.0%. T G McLaughlin, 6 from 41, 14.6%. R Cochrane, 15 from 104, 14.4%.

1.10 EVANS HALSHAW HANDICAP (£4,902: 6f) (13)

1 5440 MR MARTINI 48 (D,F,G) C Britain 4-10-0 M Rimmer 2
2 0413 EVERSET 19 (D,F,G,S) A Bailey 6-10-0 D Wright (5) 9
3 0601 ROCKY WATERS 21 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 5-9-9 B Rouse 13
4 2410 INHERENT MAGIC 46 (C,BF,G,S) M McCormack 5-9-8 T G McLaughlin (5) 6
5 0230 ROCKETEER 21 (B,CD,BF,G) W Muir 3-9-6 D Harrison 5
6 8031 DAWALIB 35 (V,D,G) D Haydn Jones 4-9-3 S Drowne (5) 12
7 2351 VERY DICEY 36 (CD,F,G,S) J Berry 6-9-1 P Roberts (7) 3
8 0112 SILENT EXPRESSION 3 (CD,F,G) B Meehan 4-9-1 R Cochrane 8
9 0002 SPENDER 21 (CD,BF,F,G) P Harris 5-9-0 T Ives 1
10 5033 INVOCATION 10 (C,D,F,G) A Moore 7-8-8 A Whelan (5) 4
11 0004 GREEN'S BID 36 (D,G) D Chapman 4-8-3 J Quinn 7
12 0011 SPEEDY CLASSIC 16 (CD,F,G) M Heaton-Ellis 5-8-0 Stephen Davies 10
13 0/1 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 19 (G) R O'Sullivan 6-7-9 S Lanigan (7) 11

5-1 Speedy Classic, 6-1 Crystal Heights, 7-1 Rocky Waters, 8-1 others.

1.40 ALEX GORRIE MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 2-Y-O: £3,244: 7f) (10)

1 00 CHEWIT 158 A Moore 9-0 Candy Morris 9
2 6506 GULF SHAADI 16 C Britain 9-0 M Rimmer 3
3 02 LOGIE 16 M Jarvis 9-0 W Woods 10
4 4534 OAKBURY 88 R Hannon 9-0 D O'Neill (7) 5
5 64 THE CAPE DOCTOR 16 B Hills 9-0 R Cochrane 2
6 0 ADJACENT TOO 42 D Laing 8-9 G Bardwell 6
7 5 ANYTIME BABY 16 K McAuliffe 8-9 A Clark 4
8 0 CHARNWOOD QUEEN 17 R Armstrong 8-9 T Ives 1
9 0603 FAIR ELLA 3 (B) J Ffitch-Heyes 8-9 N Adams 7
10 0 PORTELET 120 R Williams 8-9 D Biggs 6

9-4 Logie, 7-2 Oakbury, 4-1 Gulf Shaadi, The Cape Doctor, 9-2 others.

2.10 BIFFA WASTE SERVICES RECYCLING LIMITED STAKES (£2,565: 1m 4f) (9)

1 4312 BALLYRANTER 10 (V,BF,F,G,S) H Collingridge 5-9-6 J Quinn 8
2 2500 MEDIATOR 16 (C,G) A Moore 5-9-6 A Whelan (5) 6
3 0330 IN THE MONEY 17 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 5-9-4 T Ives 9
4 4206 BIGWHEEL BILL 18J (V,D,S) J Jenkins 5-9-2 C Rutter 3
5 5-00 DISPUTED CALL 36 (CD,G) J Hills 5-9-2 R Cochrane 1
6 6001 ELA MAN HOWA 21 (E,C,F,G) R Akehurst 3-9-1 G Carter 4
7 2400 GALEJADE 30J (F) D Haydn Jones 4-8-11 A Mackay 2
8 1210 ROCKSTINE 10 (C,G) P Mitchell 3-8-10 G Bardwell 5
9 0400 ONE WILD OAT 50 (D,F) C Wall 3-8-8 Stephen Davies 7

11-4 Ela Man Howa, 7-2 Ballyranter, 9-2 Rockstine, 5-1 others.

2.40 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Qualifier: Div I: £3,304: 7f) (12)

1 0516 MULLITOVER 21 (D,G,S) M H-Ellis 4-9-13 Stephen Davies 11
2 0041 RED VALERIAN 19 (B,C,D,F,G) K McAuliffe 3-9-11 R Cochrane 9
3 2011 TRIPLE JOY 17 (C,G) M Prescott 3-9-11 W Woods 1
4 0600 THORNY BISHOP 21 (C,G) J Bridger 3-9-8 A Clark 8
5 5040 WORLD TRAVELLER 21 (B,C,G) W O'Gorman 3-9-7 Emma O'Gorman (3) 10
6 2065 RAMBOLD 21 (C,F,G) T Jones 3-9-4 R Perham 3
7 3450 WALDO 78 (V,F) Lord Huntingdon 3-9-4 D Harrison 6
8 1008 PERILOUS PLIGHT 125 (D,F) W Muir 3-9-3 T Williams 4
9 3163 LA PETITE FUSEE 21 (C,G,S) R O'Sullivan 3-8-12 J Quinn 7
10 0641 BOGART 3 (CD,G) C Fairhurst 3-8-12 (6ex) T Ives 12
11 3321 HAWAII STORM 10 (C,D,G,S) Miss A Whitfield 6-8-10 R Painter (5) 2
12 0264 MYJINKA 94 (B) J O'Donoghue 4-7-7 M Baird (7) 8

4-1 Triple Joy, 9-2 Red Valerian, 5-1 Hawaii Storm, 6-1 Waldo, Bogart, 7-1 Mullitover, 8-1 others.

3.10 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Qualifier: Div II: £3,289: 7f) (11)

1 6024 FRIENDLY BRAVE 152 (B,D,S) T Mills 4-9-12 D Toole (7) 5
2 2535 SIR NORMAN HOLT 38 (B,CD,F,G) R O'Sullivan 5-9-11 A Clark 11
3 1205 JUST HARRY 25 (C,D,F,G) M Ryan 3-9-10 D Biggs 7
4 0103 WARWICK WARRIOR 19 (F,G) Mrs L Piggott 3-9-8 Victoria Appleby (7) 9
5 -600 FAEZ 25 (CD,S) P Felgate 4-9-8 T Ives 2
6 2225 MILOS 16 (CD,BF,F,G) T Naughton 3-9-8 G Carter 6
7 0003 SECRET ALY 17 (BF) C Britain 4-9-1 M Rimmer 8
8 5320 MAZEEKA 2 (D,F,G) W O'Gorman 3-9-0 Emma O'Gorman (3) 3
9 0000 MY RUBY RING 16 (C,F,G,S) D Laing 7-8-11 T Williams 1
10 5044 EASTLEIGH 10 (C,D,G,S) R Hollinshead 5-8-1 A Garth (5) 10
11 4434 OUR SHADEE 3 (V,CD,F) K Ivory 4-7-11 G Bardwell 4

3-1 Secret Aly, 5-1 Friendly Brave, Just Harry, Mazeeka, Eastleigh, 6-1 others.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Davies makes short work of long holes

LAURA DAVIES, of England, birdied all five of the long holes yesterday to maintain a three-stroke lead after two rounds of the Australian Women's Masters championship at the Royal Pines Resort course near Brisbane. Davies added a 68, which included seven birdies altogether, to her course-record 64 in the first round for a 36-hole total of 132, 14 under par. "I've been driving the ball really well, that's the key," Davies, the leading money-winner on the US LPGA Tour this year, said. "I've been really straight and if I can keep playing the par-fives the same way, I'll be in good shape."

Her nearest challenger is Jane Crafter, of Australia, who had seven birdies in her last 11 holes for a seven-under-par 66. The Australians, Corinne Dibnah and Karrie Webb, and Annika Sorenstam, of Sweden, are two shots further back on 137 with Kathryn Marshall, of Scotland, on 138.

Runners hot under collar

ATHLETICS: The 1996 Olympic marathon is running into controversy because it is likely to be staged in the afternoon, when the humidity in Atlanta will be high and the temperatures expected to average 90°F. The American organisers — and the television companies — want the race to be part of the closing ceremony, as is traditional.

However, the athletes would prefer to have the event early in the morning, when both humidity and temperatures are lower, when the women's race has always been held.

Chiang tests champion

TABLE TENNIS: Jean-Michel Saive, ranked No 1 in the world, had a stern test from a local player ranked 126 places below him in winning his quarter-final in the World Cup in Taipei yesterday. Saive was taken to five games by Chiang Peng-lung and had to recover from a deficit of two games to one. Chiang, a replacement for the injured Ma Wenge, said: "I've never played the top-ranked player before and I'm happy even though I lost." Saive will meet the Croatian, Zoran Primorac, who beat Johnny Huang, of Canada, in a semi-final today.

Trevino honoured again

GOLF: Lee Trevino was named Senior PGA Tour player of the year on Thursday for the third time in the past five years. Trevino, who also won the award in 1990 and 1992, won six of the 23 tournaments he entered. He has won a total of 24 championships, equalling Miller Barber's previous best, after just five years on the Senior PGA Tour. Trevino, 55, whose season was cut short because of a neck injury that required surgery in October, won just over $1.2 million (about £770,000) in 1994, the fourth highest total on the tour.

England pick Hankin

BOWLS: Doreen Hankin, of Wey Valley, among the most colourful personalities in bowls, is one of two newcomers in the England women's indoor team to challenge Scotland, the holders, for the British team title in Ballymoney next March. Hankin, who says she once hated the game so much that she threw her bowls out of a car window on Kingston Hill, has already won two national titles, the singles indoors and the triples on grass. Janet Coulson, of York, is the other newcomer, while Betty Stubbings and Liz Read have been recalled.

Record burst for Auguin

YACHTING: Christophe Auguin, the Frenchman leading the second stage of the BOC Challenge solo round-the-world race, put in a record-setting 326-mile run yesterday to draw within 1,000 miles of Sydney, the second stopover port in the 27,000-mile classic. The burst extended his lead over Steve Pettegill, of the United States, to more than 700 miles. David Adams, of Australia, the Class 2 leader, saw his 200-mile lead over Giovanni Soldini's *Kodak* cut by 75 miles. The yacht of Isabelle Autissier, who initially led the race, is awaiting mast repairs.

Batsmen take control

CRICKET: New South Wales, the Sheffield Shield champions, had a hard day in the field in Adelaide yesterday as South Australia scored 317 for four, with Paul Nobes and Darren Lehmann adding 171 for the third wicket before Nobes fell to Glenn McGrath three runs short of what would have been his eleventh first-class century. The Victoria opening batsman, Matthew Elliott, scored an unbeaten 171 to lead his team out of trouble against Western Australia in Perth. Victoria ended the day at 342 for nine after losing their first three wickets for 39.

Dixon impresses writers

EQUESTRIANISM: Karen Dixon, a team gold and individual bronze medal-winner at the world three-day-event championships in July, was presented with the British Equestrian Writers' Association's trophy for the sport's personality of the year at Olympia yesterday. The Vivien Batchelor Trophy for the outstanding young rider of the year went to Terry Boon for the second successive year. Gill Watson, the trainer of the young riders and junior three-day-event teams, was awarded the Lizzie Dudden Trophy for her services to equestrian sport.

Season in jeopardy

ICE HOCKEY: The National Hockey League looks closer than ever to losing the entire 1994-95 season after talks aimed at ending the labour dispute stalled in New York. Lawyers for the players and management had been trying to find some common ground, but the talks broke down and no meetings are planned between the NHL commissioner, Gary Bettman, and the players' union chief, Bob Goodenow. Bettman has been authorised to cancel the season if an agreement is not reached in time to ensure a 50-game schedule and play-offs before July 1.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Lech	15	80	good	varied	fair	sun	-4	14/12
(Open pistes skiing well, cold and crisp)								
Obergurgl	10	25	fair	varied	closed	fine	-3	14/12
(Good skiing available, some worn/bare patches)								
St Anton	5	70	good	varied	closed	sun	-5	14/12
(Good skiing on open runs, much colder weather)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	10	50	fair	varied	closed	sun	-3	9/12
(More lifts and pistes open, good skiing above 2,200m)								
Méribel	0	50	hard	varied	closed	fine	-5	9/12
(Colder weather allowing snow machines to work)								
Tignes	25	95	good	crust	art	sun	-9	10/12
(Best skiing on glacier, lower runs icy/worn)								
Val d'Isère	20	120	hard	crust	icy	fine	-1	10/12
(Good skiing on hard pistes, rocks on steep slopes)								
Val Thorens	10	50	fair	varied	art	sun	-8	9/12
(Good skiing available, 10 lifts open)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	10	100	hard	varied	closed	fine	-4	9/12
(Upper runs skiing well, zermatt link open)								
Courmayeur	0	70	fair	varied	closed	sun	2	9/12
(30cm snow at 1,700m, good skiing available)								
SWITZERLAND								
Verbier	0	80	fair	varied	closed	fine	-2	9/12
(Enjoyable skiing on pistes that are open)								
Zermatt	5	95	fair	varied	closed	sun	-4	9/12
(Best skiing on klein matterhorn)								
UNITED STATES								
Mammoth	210	240	good	powder	good	sun	-2	15/12
(Excellent skiing everywhere, deep snow cover)								
Vail	75	95	good	powder	good	fair	-14	15/12
(Excellent skiing, all lifts open)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

Saturday portrait: Sean Kelly, by Andrew Longmore

Wheel turns full circle for local hero saddled with unwanted label

ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MARTIN



A few hundred yards from the spot where, astride a tractor, he first considered a future as a professional cyclist, Sean Kelly will this weekend race competitively for the last time. The venue is Carrick-on-Suir, the town that renamed its square after its most famous sporting son, but the event, a gentle 50-mile leisure race round the roads of co. Waterford, is as much a welcome to a new phase in Kelly's career as a celebration of the old. Kelly has never ridden a leisurely race in his life.

That was his problem. While others, like Greg LeMond, who also retired this month, would ease themselves into a season, leaving their best for the Tour de France, Kelly was out racing hard from the start of the year. He knew no other way. By July, he had left his best form on the roads of Spain, France or Belgium, and so victory in the Tour, which was quite within his compass, eluded him. He came fourth in 1985, won the green jersey for the overall best points scorer a record four times, held the yellow jersey for a day, but could never take that tantalising final step onto the podium in Paris.

Nor did he win the world championship or the Giro d'Italia, the biggest of the other events on the cycling calendar, failures that would not have mattered so much had not his countryman, great friend and even greater rival, Stephen Roche, won all three in one season and thereby reduced one of the great road-racing careers of all time to a speck at the wrong end of a telescope.

For all those not privy to the inner world of professional cycling, Kelly's greatness will always need to be explained. He won the Paris-Nice Classic seven times, a feat that will almost certainly never be equalled; he won 193 races in 18 years as a professional, 33 of them in 1984: he competed in 14 Tours de France, abandoning twice, a record of consistency greeted with a shake of the head by pupils of sport's most brutal school.

Paul Sherwen, a professional in Kelly's early days, recalls the Irishman coming second in the Tour of Flanders on one Sunday, flying to Spain, winning the five-day Tour de Pays Basque, and flying back to Paris on the following Sunday to win the Paris-Roubaix. No other rider would have considered a schedule like that.

If he is bothered by the label of "the best cyclist never to have won the Tour", Kelly can count his money as compensation, relish his other epithet as the "king of the Classics", or reflect what sort of life he might have enjoyed had bricklaying, his first trade, been his living. On hard, hot days in the mountains, when survival was the only aim, thoughts of home gave Kelly strength. "My father worked all his life on a farm and by the end of it he is just about comfortable," Kelly said. "That's it. When you come from my background, cycling is a good life. Yes, the racing and riding is hard, but you're well looked after. It's easy to forget that."

> 'The best cyclist never to win the Tour de France, he can compensate by counting his cash'

Kelly would return to his native Carrick each winter, to his wife, Linda, a local girl, and their twins, not just to recharge his batteries after his annual 30,000 kilometres in the saddle, but to remind himself of the sort of life he had left behind.

Kelly is entirely without pretensions in his life or his sport. How could he avoid being down-to-earth when his father greeted the news of his son's momentous stage win in the 1975 Tour of Britain with the retort: "So he should do, all the time he spends on that blooming bike of his."

It also helped that Kelly had never set his heart on being a professional cyclist, so was in no hurry. He won his first race, a handicap round Carrick, on a postman's bike when he was 12, but started riding seriously only because his brother did. Even when he became Irish junior champion at 16, he was hesitant about a professional career. His first meeting with Jean de Gribaldy, the team manager with whom he formed a legendary partnership, typified his native caution.

In the winter of 1976, the year after Kelly had been banned for life from the Olympics for riding in South Africa, de Gribaldy had travelled from France to sign him for his Flandria team. Kelly was driving a tractor back to the farm when he saw de Gribaldy's taxi go past. He knew who it was, but did not bother to stop until the taxi had turned round and overtaken him.

Even then, after an hour's talk back at the farm, Kelly would not sign. He was not about to sell himself short, whoever the buyer. Kelly took a week to decide and then negotiated an extra £2,000 on the original offer of £4,000 basic a year. A country boy, perhaps, but always aware of his worth.

Too much so at times, his critics said. Though Kelly took a long time to break into the top ranks, when he did so, he was the complete professional, a terrifying sprinter, consistent time-trialist and, though his 11st 3lb frame was ideally too heavy for a climber, no slouch up the mountains, either.

Once Kelly had won his first classic, the Tour of Lombardy, in 1983, he was unstoppable. Over the next four seasons, he was indisputably the best all-round cyclist in the world; strong, durable, courageous, smart and, most important of all in a sport divided by psychology, feared. He was adept at forming alliances on the move because he understood the intricacies of the peloton and could be trusted to repay debts. In those four seasons, he won 98 races.

So why did he never win the Tour? Kelly points to his schedule and regrets not changing it to prepare himself more thoroughly. But, in those early days, "foreigners" in continental teams had to work harder than nationals to keep their place for the next season. Kelly had to make himself indispensible. Bad luck played a part, too. Sherwen remembers the year Kelly crashed and had to pull out. "He was flying that year, but broke his collar-bone. It is the only time I have ever seen Kelly cry."

It is all too late now. After a couple of seasons winding down with smaller teams, Kelly has decided to retire. He cannot put a finger on the timing of it; just a feeling that, at 38, he cannot win any more. He did not ride for fun.

Tonight, Mary Robinson, the President of Ireland, is visiting Carrick to honour Kelly. Tomorrow, a number of his oldest friends and foes are congregating to pay their respects — Roche, Fignon, Criquielon — along with a peleton of supporters, who have followed their man from the Carrick Wheelers Road Club to an equally exclusive club reserved for the sport's great champions.

Though he now speaks Dutch and French fluently and his Spanish is a little better than his Irish, he has kept his Irishness intact. He is still the same, quiet, solid Sean, happy to enjoy a drink in Kehoe's Bar. He would never have to pay for one, either, such is his status among his own people.

At the moment, Kelly is quite enjoying all the attention, which he so studiously shunned during his career. Next spring, he says, is when retirement might hit him. He has had offers to do public relations work, the most serious from the new Le Groupement team, which wanted him to help with the transformation of their most interesting signing, Graeme Obree, from pursuit world champion to road racer.

Kelly would prefer a job closer to home, in the food or drink industry, perhaps. It would seem a waste of his experience. But, having been round the clock a few times in his career, nobody has more right to stay still for a year or two.

Parrott harder to beat playing away



Parrott: season's best

FROM PHIL YATES IN ANTWERP

EXCELLING on foreign soil is what John Parrott does best, as he proved once again here yesterday when he reached the final of the £325,000 European Open by playing snooker of a high quality to gain a 6-4 victory over Nigel Bond.

Since turning professional in 1983, Parrott, 30, has won 12 tournaments and nine of those successes have come outside Britain. While he appreciates it is more than a coincidence, the Liverpool-born player remains at a loss to explain his impressive overseas record.

Parrott, the European Open champion 1989 and 1990, when the event was held in France, has also won the Dubai Classic twice, in addition to invitation tournaments in China, Belgium, Monaco and Malta.

After losing the first frame, Parrott threatened to overwhelm Bond when breaks of 57, 51 and 45 laid the foundation for his 3-1 lead at the mid-session interval.

Parrott, who has fallen to eighth in the provisional world rankings because of his mediocre start to the season, held a 65-0 advantage in the fifth frame when Bond potted a red from distance to initiate the 66 clearance that brought him back to 2-3.

Bond, who was appearing in the semi-final of a ranking event for the first time since March 1992, levelled at 3-3, thanks to an 81 break, and opened the scoring in the seventh frame with 43.

However, he missed a tricky red to a baulk pocket to allow Parrott back to the table, whereupon the 1991 world and United Kingdom champion regained the lead at 4-3 with an 89 clearance.

Bond's response was an 83 break for 4-4 but he did not bother the scorers in the following two frames as Parrott secured his place in today's best of 17-frame final against Stephen Hendry or Ronnie O'Sullivan with unanswered contributions of 107, 36 and 37.

"The clearance in the seventh frame won the match for me," Parrott said. "Before that I was on a slippery slope. Without doubt, it was my best performance of the season."

O'Sullivan continued to defy convention during a 5-1 win over Dave Harold on Thursday night with a display that left Hendry, who was watching the match on a press room television monitor, chuckling in disbelief.

O'Sullivan has decided to approach matches as though they are no more than practice sessions with an audience and a referee. Safety play was virtually forgotten against Harold as he took on one ambitious long pot after another.

Harold described O'Sullivan's display as "awesome" and it was difficult to disagree. In completing victory in only 63 minutes, O'Sullivan compiled breaks of 82, 80, 44, 91 and 53, and would surely have gone on to register at least one century had he not let his impatience get the better of him.

On 82 in the first frame, and playing as swiftly as is humanly possible, O'Sullivan potted the last red before the referee, John Williams, had time to respot the pink.

O'Sullivan was successful with a series of high-risk shots but will assuredly have to treat Hendry with considerably more respect.

RESULT: Semi-final: J Parrott (Eng) bt N Bond (Eng) 6-4

Players encouraged to achieve spiritual goal



SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

LET me start this week with an utterly seasonable story — well, it comes from Turkey, anyway. It tells of the ultimate football incentive scheme: not treasure in this life, where moth and rust corrupt, but treasure in the life to come. In short, if the lads of Konyaspor win promotion to the first division, they will all be taken on a *hajj* to Mecca. "The chance of such a trip should perk them up a bit," the club chairman, Hamdi Ucarok, said. "I'm willing to hire a private jet or buy all the plane tickets myself."

Ucarok is convinced that there is a spiritual explanation for poor league form. Konyaspor lie seventh in one of five ten-team secondary divisions. "They've got no spirit at all," Ucarok said. "I'm going to call a *hoca* [an Islamic teacher] to teach them the Koran, the life of the Prophet, and how to pray. It'll do them some good. They spend all their free time lazing about playing table tennis and snooker."

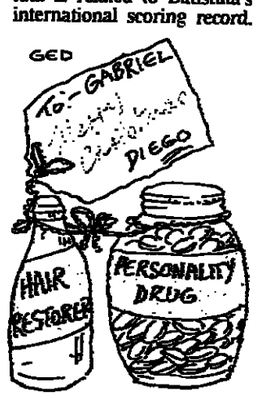
The chairman knows all about the virtues of Mecca. He has performed the *hajj* five times. He added: "They are good Muslim lads but just a bit down in the dumps. I'd rather have a wholesome boy than a star who scores ten goals in a game."

Botham's no-ball

Talk of wholesome boys brings us, perhaps inevitably, to Ian Botham. He has been dismissed as vice-president of Scunthorpe United, the football club that he graced for four seasons from 1979 as a centre back of consummate subtlety. He has been an honorary vice-president since 1985, but shareholders, unhappy at his absence from the club, voted him out. It left Don Rowing, the chief executive, less than happy. "People have short memories," he said. "Ian Botham has boosted the profile of the club and helped fund-raising in the early Eighties, when we desperately needed cash. We are eternally grateful to him. His name is synonymous with Scunthorpe United." Botham continues his dramatic career in *Cinderella*, knowing that in Scunthorpe, his personal midnight has struck and the ball must continue without him.

Balderdash

At last, the world hears what it has been waiting for: the comments of Diego Maradona on the demands of the Argentine national football team that all the players have short haircuts. Gabriel Batistuta was the most eager in his rush to the barbers. "You get on the team by playing well, not by having short hair," Maradona said. "I am dumbfounded by Batistuta's surrender. It seems to be the behaviour of a person without personality." Some ungenerous people have suggested that Maradona's hostility to Batistuta is related to Batistuta's international scoring record.



Maradona scored 33 goals in 90 matches; Batistuta has scored 24 from 37.

Lost for words

I have occasionally expressed bewilderment at the format of Brazilian domestic football, in which four groups of six play to decide the teams for the second stage, which comprises ... yes, 24 teams. However, such mysteries become crystal clear when compared with American football, and the National Football League's play-off system.

There are 28 teams: as we stand, with just two rounds of the regular season left, 22 of them could make the play-offs. Take the NFC Central division. Minnesota will win the division if they beat Detroit; they will reach the play-offs with a tie. Chicago will go through if they beat LA Rams, so long as Green Bay either lose or tie against Atlanta.

OK so far? But it's not quite that simple. Chicago also depend on any one of the following possibilities: a Philadelphia loss/tie to New York Giants and an Arizona loss/tie to Cincinnati, or a New York Giants loss to Philadelphia and an Arizona loss/tie to Cincinnati. Ah yes, I hear you ask, but what if Minnesota lose? I have no idea. I'm nonplussed. I just don't understand what's going off out there ...

Saving honour

A strange tale of official oversight and belated recognition reaches me. Bert Trautmann was a German prisoner of war who eventually settled in England and played in goal, quite outstandingly, for Manchester City. He famously broke his neck in a Cup Final, and was reckoned to be the best goalie in the world. But he never played for West Germany. The manager, the uncompromising Sepp Herberger, refused to pick those who did not play their domestic football in Germany. This week, with Trautmann now 71, Germany has honoured him, presenting him with the *Verdienstkreuze*.

Good value

A plop on the doormat, and the coming year's essential reference book arrives: the omnisport *Wisden*. It remains the first argument-settler you turn to. It is now called *The Radio 5 Live Sports Yearbook 1995* and, published by Oddball Publishing at £11.99, it is a good deal, especially if you need the result of the Nordic combined, and also want the tastiest quotes. Quote of the year? Only one contender. "Do I not like that!"

Hull's light burning low

Christopher Irvine on how Wigan may hasten sunset at the Boulevard

IS THE sun about to set on another part of the shrinking rugby league empire? The decline and fall of Hull points to a hotbed of the sport gone cold. For the inaugural Premiership next season, Humberside might be without a club in the senior division for the first time in 20 years.

Hull are poised on the precipice from which Hull Kingston Rovers fell last season. Their third-round home meeting with Wigan in the Regal Trophy conjures stirring memories of past cup battles between the two; sufficient, anyway, not to mark the outcome tomorrow as a foregone conclusion.

Wigan's visits to the Boulevard are never anything other than torrid. However, the fire that Hull can still raise in their bellies is no longer the norm. Their classic 1985 final in the Challenge Cup was the start of Wigan's rise and the beginning of the end of Hull's decade of power.

Apart from a brief recapturing of glory, under Brian Smith, the past four seasons have accrued little money or success.

Hull's struggle a place off the bottom of the first division brought the dismissal a week ago of Tony Gordon and the optimistic noises that traditionally follow the departure of any coach.

These are not entirely groundless in Hull's case. Gordon was unfortunate with injuries. The obvious potential of Mark Hewitt, Shane Endacott and Tevita Vaikona in the backs has been restricted by deficiencies up front. Not that the four-match ban handed to Tim Street, the prop, by the League yesterday for being dismissed last Sunday against Halifax has assisted Phil Windley, the Academy coach, in his temporary charge.

Workington is another outpost threatened by relegation. The Cumbrians' best chance of advancing to the quarter-finals at the expense of Leeds lies in a quagmire of a pitch. Castleford got bogged down in similar conditions recently at Derwent Park while yielding one of Workington's five points this season.

Should Keighley and Batley, the two leading teams in the second division, take the places of Hull and Workington, the new Premiership would be restricted to a 200-mile cordon.

Both have the opportunity to test how they would cope. Keighley against Sheffield Eagles and Batley at home to St Helens.

Keighley, amid the American-style din of a packed Cougar Park, have the enterprise to cause an upset against one of rugby league's few other progressive clubs. Phil Larder, who left Widnes last May, has fostered a bold attacking game that has brought 25 tries for Nick Pinkney, a prolific centre well on the way to breaking his club record of 31 last season.

Salford and Warrington tick to the tune of Andy Gregory and Jonathan Davies respectively. Without their chief orchestrators, as they are for today, both are prone to suffer. Warrington have been especially vulnerable of late, while Salford go into their televised home tie on the back of three wins.

Bradford Northern will travel warily to Whitehaven, who disposed of another first-division side, Featherstone Rovers, in the previous round. The holders, Castleford, too, will not take lightly their visit to Dewsbury's new Owl Lane stadium.

Depleted St Albans face stern title test

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

ST ALBANS begin the defence of their national men's indoor club hockey title with a depleted team for the preliminary round today and tomorrow at two centres, under a new format. Six teams, three from each pool, will qualify for the finals night at Crystal Palace on January 20.

With Halliday, Ginns and Jennings injured and Henning Tewes in Germany, St Albans will be struggling at Aldenham School, where, in pool one, the six other contenders are Old Loughtonians, East Grinstead, Teddington, Firebrands, Surbiton and Redbridge and Ilford.

Explaining the plight of St Albans, Peter Hazell, their manager, said yesterday: "The injuries could not have hit us at a worse time — we are looking around for younger players to fill the gaps."

As for the new format, he added: "It's all right having two pools but they are disproportionate regarding the strength of teams. To put four of the strongest indoor sides in the country in one pool is a little unfair."

The potential of East Grinstead, Teddington and Old Loughtonians undeniably poses a serious threat to the survival of St Albans, who have won the event on seven occasions.

With the withdrawal of Gloucester City, pool two, at RAF Newton, has been reduced to six teams with the three Midland sides, Stourport, Harborne and Barford Tigers, the most talented. All three could qualify at the expense of Doncaster, Norton and Hull. Stourport appearing to have the strongest hand with Knott, Sherwani and White prominent in attack.

Stourport recently won the Midlands title, taking precedence on goal difference over Harborne, whose side includes Simon and Andrew Bostock, both specialists at the indoor game. Des Betts, a prolific scorer at both outdoor and indoor, will spearhead the Barford Tigers attack.

The six teams that qualify for Crystal Palace again will be split into two pools, the winners of each pool qualifying for the final, which will not feature any of the familiar names of the past, such as Hounslow, Blackheath, Beckenham or Tulse Hill.

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Highbury standards will not be lost on Graham



ROB HUGHES
Weekend View

The accusing finger of alleged financial impropriety moves across North London football. A week after Tottenham Hotspur's escape, with only a fine for 28 cases of under-the-counter payments to players, George Graham, the manager of Arsenal, appears before a Premier League Commission of Inquiry that has started a wide-ranging investigation into allegations of irregularities in transfer dealings in English football.

Graham will stroll out to an assured ovation from the Highbury faithful this afternoon when Arsenal play Leeds United, their first home game since the allegation against him was made. His head will be high, the smile fixed. "I'm comfortable and relaxed with my situation, as are the club," he insisted yesterday. "I do not know what reception I'll get from the fans, hopefully a very good one, but I know the reaction I'll get from the players because the spirit is fantastic and always has been.

"I'm not adding to what I've already said about the allegations. There have been some wild reports, but I've never profited from any transfer dealing. I am saying no more."

He has, presumably, been more loquacious during the three hours he and Ken Friar, the Arsenal chief executive, spent on Thursday with the three wise men delving into the affair of the £285,000 that is alleged to have passed from Rene Hauge, a Norwegian agent, to Graham when the £1.57 million transfer from Brondby of John Jensen went through. Hauge, now being investigated by tax inspectors in Oslo, has already insisted that he will keep the commission at arm's length. "I have to keep quiet if I am to continue in this business," he said. "It is important that I keep the trust of those I work with."

Trust, certainly, is important all round. This is no time to go soft on George Graham. If he took the money, under whatever guise, then he cheated on his own club, on Brondby, and effectively on the supporters of Arsenal. If he did not, if the allegations he attributes to hysterical journalism are unproven, then, just as in the case of Bruce Grobbelaar, he must be allowed the basic tenet of British justice: innocent until proved guilty.

"The fans aren't going to turn against George until we know exactly what the facts of the case are," Barry Baker, of the Arsenal Supporters' Club, said last night. There are six pieces of silver — the main trophies Arsenal have won in eight seasons under Graham — that say they owe him that. But there is also history. "Some Arsenal fans feel the whole thing is a ruse to take the heat off Tottenham," Baker said.

Ah, Tottenham: it has been ever thus for threequarters of a century. One can feel the ghostly chains of history rattling, as they have since 1913 when Sir Henry Norris, a ruthless property developer, moved Arsenal from Woolwich ten miles north into the neighbourhood shared by Orient and Tottenham. Those clubs immediately complained to the football authorities, animosity was born, and in the case of Tottenham was exacerbated in 1919 when Norris persuaded the Football League to include Arsenal, though only sixth in the second division before the war, to take a place in the first division at their expense.

History is vital to the understanding of the situation that has driven the clubs in rivalry since. But 1919 was interesting for other reasons: it was the year that the first division was expanded from 20 to 22 clubs, also the year when Leeds City were expelled from the League for illegal payments. The manager of Leeds City, a certain Herbert Chapman, was suspended, then given amnesty, and after leading Huddersfield Town to the championship was procured for Arsenal by Norris.

Chapman's subsequent successes at Arsenal are unashamedly the stimuli for Graham. He sits in his office beneath a framed photograph of him and collects memorabilia of the Chapman years. Graham has said often enough that he feels guardian to the standards Chapman set. In the trophy-room he has been Chapman's equal; in pretentions to a disciplinarian approach he has recently been let down by the escapades of the club captain, Tony Adams, and the drugs and gambling of Paul Merson.

Yet, greatly proud that his success, and his meanness in the buying market, have helped generate money to rebuild the modern Highbury, Graham said just a few seasons ago: "Standards have fallen in society, let alone football. My responsibility is to influence Arsenal in the right and proper manner."

Indeed: and until or unless anyone can prove he has failed in that influence, there appears no reason why he would look at the bust of Chapman in the marble hall and confess: "Father, I have sinned."

Ferguson facing selection dilemma

Return of leading lights illuminates United's title path

BY PETER BALL

THERE was ominous news for the rest of the FA Carling Premiership yesterday. Ten days after their exit from the European Cup, Manchester United are almost back to full strength for the last game before the Christmas holiday period as they turn their full attention to winning the championship for a third successive year.

Mark Hughes, Eric Cantona and Ryan Giggs return to the side against a faltering Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford today. "When everyone starts to get fit, the real difficulty is team selection," Ferguson complained, half-seriously.

"It's a nice problem, but it's an irksome kind of task to have to leave out someone who has done really well for you. It could be a couple of young players to be left out or, with Ince, McClair and Keane, there's a midfield problem.

"Keane's form has been fabulous since he came back. McClair's been playing out of his skin all season. I've the option of putting Keane to right back but that would mean leaving out a lad [Neville] who has done absolutely brilliantly since he came in. None of them deserve to be left out."

But if none deserves to be left out, Ferguson is adamant that Giggs deserves a recall. Scholes, the scorer of two goals at Queens Park Rangers a week ago, is suspended, solving one problem, but with Giggs back after a six-game absence, there is no place for Davies and Gillespie, or Butt, who is at least likely to get a place on the substitutes' bench.

If Ferguson elects to keep McClair in midfield and play Keane at right back for his first start against his former club, there will be a return to the shadows for all the young players who have played such an important part in keeping United at the shoulder of Blackburn Rovers. United, like their rivals, begin a spell of four games in ten days on Boxing Day, followed by the third round of the FA Cup.

"After Christmas and New Year, you've got a good idea who is going to be in the frame," Ferguson said. "We're a point behind Blackburn, which, knowing our European commitments, I would have settled for at this stage."

Although Colin Hendry is away with Scotland, Blackburn are also getting their players back, with Mike New-



Giggs: worthy of recall

ell now fit to put pressure on the most prolific strike force in the Premiership. Shearer and Sutton attempt to increase their impressive tally of goals at Leicester City, giving Mark McGhee a baptism of fire as Leicester's new manager. Leicester have won only three of their 20 games and have not kept a clean sheet all season.

"When Leicester won promotion last May, everyone was celebrating the prospect of games like this," McGhee said. "Now they've arrived, we've still got to enjoy them."

To that end, McGhee has told his players to change their style in the search for a change of fortune. "I've told the players I don't want to see any long-ball football. I believe keeping the ball is the best way to defend. When I explained what I wanted to the players, some of their eyes lit up."

Newcastle United, the third team in serious contention, have Paul Bracewell back in the squad after fears that he may not play this season, for the visit to Coventry City, with Kevin Keegan, their manager, warning they cannot afford to slip further.

Behind the leading three, the most intriguing match is Tottenham Hotspur's visit to Everton, with both sides showing renewed vigour under new management. Tottenham are without Klinsmann, who is with Germany in Albania, and Everton are without their equally influential £4 million signing, Duncan Ferguson, who is on Scotland duty.

Spencer made to measure for Scotland

Kevin McCarra talks to the striker whose lack of height belies his growing stature

GRAHAM STUART



Spencer's good form for Chelsea has brought him international recognition

At 5ft 5in, it is easy for a man to get lost in the crowd. In Athens tomorrow, however, John Spencer may elbow his way to the very front at last. The Chelsea forward's industry and vitality could, for the first time, earn him a place in Scotland's starting line-up, in a European championship tie with Greece which will require every drop of energy the visitors can command.

The lack of height has not been Spencer's real handicap. At times, the shadows in which his career seemed stuck were cast by other strikers' towering reputations. When it comes to arriving at the highest level, few have faced so stiff an entrance exam. The Scotland coach, Craig Brown, is conscious of the competition at Stamford Bridge.

"Even before Mark Stein and Paul Furlong were signed," he said, "John was already fighting for a place, with people like Robert Fleck and Neil Shipperley, a player I regard very highly." For Spencer, though, Chelsea provides breathing space after the greater claustrophobia of Ibrox.

He was associated with Rangers from the age of 12 and the signing of a boy from a Catholic background by an emphatically Protestant club made for peculiarly Scottish headlines. Spencer's true difficulties, however, stemmed from the wealth which allowed Rangers to employ Mark Hateley, Ally McCoist and Maurice Johnston.

His breakthrough never arrived. In that period, though, it became possible to detect the stubborn streak that underlies his chirpiness. At Ibrox they still remember the way he would come in at the beginning of a season and tell Walter Smith that he was about to give the manager the problem of deciding which leading light would have to be dropped to make way for him.

Before a discussion of Spencer's abilities can begin, those who know the forward will always talk of his character. "I first met him when he was in the under-15 group at our training centre at Inverclyde," Brown said. "He was a bubbly guy. You aren't supposed to have favourites, but John is so likeable that you want to help him." Even so, football has rarely been obliging for him. Spencer, at 24, is part of a celebrated generation that includes Duncan Ferguson, Scott Booth and Eoin Jess, but he has been on a long hunt for his own piece of fame. At Chelsea, the first-team place has been hard to secure and he has few illusions about the footballer's life.

Late last year, under the new management of Glenn Hoddle, Chelsea had a run of 11 matches that brought nine defeats and two draws. Through it all, Hoddle persevered with his refined notions about the game. Did Spencer admire the manager's idealism? "No, I wasn't in his team."

That answer is played for laughs, but it also reminds you that a professional's first and last aim is to get a game. Spencer's experiences have taught him never to take his place for granted. At present, he is ensconced in the supporters' affections and Chelsea's lore. It is his idiosyncratic goal, against FK Austria in Vienna, which has taken the club to the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals.

On that occasion, the opposition's outfield players were all clustered around the Chelsea area when Spencer broke out, following a corner, and ran the length of the pitch to score. The wide open space bemused him. "I kept on thinking, 'There must be a sweeper lying in the grass who is going to jump up and tackle me'," he said.

The goal was hardly typical of Spencer — a striker valued for quick feet and rapid reactions — but it has lifted his confidence to a level which could benefit Scotland, for whom he made his debut as a substitute against Russia last month. Brown dismissed the old doubts raised by his shortage of inches: "That debate died when Brazil won the World Cup with Bebeto and Romario in attack."

Since Greece lead group eight, with maximum points from three matches, this would be an ideal moment for Spencer to demonstrate that he is one more small striker who can measure up.

Injury doubts, page 32

Evans's performance criticised in report

ALUN EVANS, the chief executive of the Football Association of Wales (FAW), has come under renewed fire in a report commissioned by his own association criticising the way Welsh football is run.

Evans was singled out in the *Review and Report on the Administration of the Association*. It claims that "little supervision or management of staff ever really takes place and too much of the power within the staff group rested in the hands of one person (the chief executive), which inevitably created bottlenecks in decision making".

As a result, the report claims: "The staff team generally felt a lack of direction and suffered from extremely low morale."

Evans's distribution of tickets for international matches at Cardiff Arms Park is also criticised. "A full reconciliation between the attendance at an international match and the ticket receipts as per the accounting records is not carried out," the report says.

□ Patrick Cobbold, the Ipswich Town director, has died suddenly at his home, aged 60. He had served the club for 30 years, 15 as chairman, and presided over the club's most successful years, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, when they won the Uefa and FA Cups. Cobbold stepped down before the 1991-92 season, when the present chairman, John Kerr, took over.

He was the third member of the Cobbold family to be chairman, after his cousin Phillip and brother John, who were chairmen from 1949 to 1976.

Cowans to rejoin Taylor

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers intend to sign Gordon Cowans, the former England international, from their first division rivals, Derby County, on Monday. The clubs have agreed a £20,000 fee with a further £10,000 payable if the 36-year-old plays 30 games.

Cowans, who has won ten England caps, is to finalise talks with Graham Taylor, the Wolverhampton manager, and will be reunited with him if he passes a medical.

Taylor brought Cowans back to England from the Italian club, Bari, in 1988 for the second of the midfield player's three spells with Aston Villa. The former England manager also gave Cowans the last of his international caps, against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin in 1990.

Sizwe Motaung, the South Africa international, has joined Crystal Palace on an extended trial until the end of the season. Then, Palace will have the option of buying the 24-year-old defender from his Pretoria-based club, Sundowners, for £300,000.

Alan Smith, the Palace manager, said: "He has played two reserve games for us and shows some promise, but we have to see whether he likes us and also whether he fits into our ways before we make any decisions."

Richard Dryden, 25, the Birmingham defender, has joined Bristol City in a £200,000 deal and goes straight into their squad for their first division match at Sunderland today. He has previously been with Bristol Rovers, Exeter and Notts County.

Southend United have agreed to a transfer request from Rocky Otto, their winger, after failing to agree a new contract. "Otto has still got 18 months to go on his current contract and we have been trying to negotiate a new deal," Vic Jobson, the chairman, said.

"Unhappily, though, it has been impossible for us to come to an agreement with him and we have granted his transfer request. He wanted 100 per cent more than he is getting at the moment. We offered him half that amount again, but it wasn't enough."

Otto, 27, cost Southend £100,000 from Leyton Orient in July 1993. He has established himself as a favourite with supporters at the Roots Hall ground and is rated in the £1 million bracket.

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SPORT IN BRIEF: THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Stoke 2 Everton 3. Second division: Manchester City 0 Mansfield 0; Oldham 2 Birmingham 4.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Championship final, first leg: Palmeiras 3 Corinthians 1.

ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Boca Juniors 5 Lanus 0; Newell's Old Boys 2 San Lorenzo 0; Velez Sarsfield 1 Independiente 0. River Plate are champions with one round left.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION: Miami 98 Denver 101; Washington 85 Utah 95. Dallas 122 Boston 113; Houston 94 LA Lakers 97. Seattle 114 Portland 103; Sacramento 84 New York 94. LA Clippers 89 Golden State 82.

BIATHLON

BADGASTEIN, Austria: World Cup: Men: 10km: 1, S Glimedal (Nor) 29:41.5 (0 penalty loop). 2, O Rychenkov (Belo) 29.43.0 (1). 3, F Luck (Ger) 29:59.3 (0). Standings: 1, J-A Tydum (Nor) 82pts; 2, O-E Bjorndalen (Nor) 63, 3, V Druzhevi (Russ) 61. Women: 7.5km: 1, S Gruner-Peter-Memm (Ger) 26:06.3 (0); 2, A Harvey (Ger) 26.11.5 (0); 3, U Disl (Ger) 26.23.4 (1). Standings: 1, Briand 86pts. 2, Disl 83, 3, P Behle (Ger) 77.

BOWLS

ENGLAND WOMEN'S TEAM (v Scotland, Ballymoney, March): B Alderson (Thornaby), E Bessell (Yeovil), B Brown (Colchester), L Brownlie (Egham), J Coulson (York), M Dyer (Clevedon), D Hanlon (Wey Valley), K Hawes (Channel), L Jarman (Cambridge Chesterton), S King (Boston), W Line (Athelney), I Molyneux (City and County of Oxford), J Morris (Nottingham), M Price (Desborough, Maidenhead), E Read (Channel), J Roylance (North Walsham), S Rodeman (Ickley), George (Feld), N Shaw (Thornaby), B Stubbings (Richardsons), M Steele (Egham), L Thelwell (Handy Cross), G Thomas (West Cornwall), J Thomas (Nottingham), B Till (Solent), E Tunn (Colchester), D Wilson (Boston).

CRICKET

MANDELA CUP:

BLOEMFONTEIN: Sri Lanka beat South Africa by 35 runs

SRI LANKA

R S Mahanama c Hudson b Jack	10
S T Jayasuriya c Rhodes b Jack	23
A P Gurusinha c Rindel b Simons	14
P A de Silva c Hudson b de Villiers	73
*A Ranatunga run out	60
†H P Tillekeratne b de Villiers	21
R S Kalpage c Jack b Simons	4
G P Wickremasinghe b Simons	11
M Muralitharan not out	0
Extras (lb 3, w 3, nb 4)	10
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	225

C Vaas and K R Pushpakumara did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-44, 3-70, 4-161, 5-201, 6-214.

BOWLING: de Villiers 10-1-31-2; Matthews 10-2-37-0; Jack 10-0-41-2; Simons 10-1-51-3; Callaghan 3-0-16-0, Rindel 4-0-24-0, Cronje 3-0-25-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

A C Hudson run out	44
D J Callaghan c Ranatunga b Vaas	9
*W J Cronje c Mahanama b Muralitharan	14
D J Cullinan b Kalpage	16
D J Richardson c Muralitharan b de Silva	1
S D Jack run out	4
C O Simons c Ranatunga b Kalpage	21
P N Matthews not out	20
P S de Villiers c Mahanama b Jayasuriya	15
Extras (b 3, lb 12)	15
Total (47.5 overs)	191

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-66, 3-81, 4-96, 5-109, 6-113, 7-115, 8-152, 9-154.

BOWLING: Pushpakumara 3-0-20-0; Vaas 7-1-20-1; Wickremasinghe 6-0-16-0; Kalpage 10-0-42-0; Muralitharan 10-0-23-2; Jayasuriya 9.5-0-42-1; de Silva 3-0-13-1.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Adelaide: South Australia 317-4 (P Nobes 87, D Lehmann 86 not out) v New South Wales. Perth: Victoria 342-9 (M Elliott 171 not out; J Angel 4 for 87).

CASTLE CUP: Cape Town: Western Province 300-4 (H Gibbs 102, D L Haynes 54) v Boland. Port Elizabeth: Eastern Province 328 (K C Wessels 104, P Amm 65), Northern Transvaal 228-8 (E A E Baptiste 5 for 45).

GOLF

GOLD COAST: Australian Women's Masters (Aus unless stated): 132: L Davies (Eng) 64, 68. 135: J Crafter 69, 66. 137: C Dibnah 67, 70; A Sorenstam (Swe) 66, 68, K Webb 67, 70. 138: K Marshall (Scot) 68, 68; P Meunier (Fr) 69, 69; T Hanson (US) 69, 69. 139: K Parker-Gregory (US) 70, 69; L Garbacz (US) 69, 70; K Tschetter (US) 71, 68; M Morris (US) 69, 70. 140: L Connelly (US) 72, 68; A Nicholas (Eng) 68, 72; E Orley (Switz) 72, 68. British: 142: D Reid (Scot) 67, 75; J Stuteley (Eng) 73, 70. 146: C Hall (Eng) 72, 74. 149: J Morley (Eng) 72, 77. 155: K Douglas (Eng) 74, 81.

ICE HOCKEY

MOSCOW: Izvestia Cup: Group A: Finland bt Italy 2-0. Group B: Czech Republic bt Norway 5-0.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British Public Schools championship: Inclecon Weather Cup for under-16s: First round: B Dean (Radley) bt J Clowes (Wellington) 8-15, 15-12, 15-10; G Smith-Bingham (Eton) bt A Clowes 15-10, 15-1; T Hughes (Cheltenham) bt G Warren (Winchester) 15-2, 15-2.

REAL TENNIS

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Bordeaux Direct Oratory bt Harbour Club (Oratory names first). J Howell lost to L Deuchar 4-6, 4-6; P Tabley bt N Wood 2-6, 1-6; R Gunn bt K Ludenkens 6-2, 6-1. Bordeaux Direct Oratory bt Leamington 2-1. J Howell bt M Devine 6-2, 6-3, P Tabley bt K Sheldon 6-5, 4-6, 6-2; M Eadie bt A Davies 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

SKIING

VAL D'ISÈRE: World Cup downhill: Men: 1, J Strobl (Austria) 1min 57.30sec; 2, L Alphand (Fr) 1:57.41; 3, G Mader (Austria) 1:57.57; 4, P Ortlieb (Austria) 1:57.61; 5, X Gigandet (Switz) 1:57.64. British: 45, G Bell 1:59.73; 56, M Bell 2.00.89.

Leading overall World Cup standings: 1, A Tomba (It) 250pts; 2, P Ortlieb (Austria) 150; 3, M von Grunigen (Switz) 149. Downhill: 1, Strobl 100pts; 2, Alphand 80, 3, Mader 60.

Nations Cup standings: 1, Austria 993pts; 2, Italy 560; 3, Switzerland 472.

TIGNES, France: World Cup freestyle standings: Ballet: Men: 1, F Becker (Fr) 24.90pts; 2, H Baumgartner (Switz) 23.75; 3, P Landa (Cz) 22.90. Women: 1, E Breen (US) 26.45pts; 2, O Kusichenko (Russ) 25.05; 3, Y Batalova (Russ) 23.30.

SQUASH

BOMBAY: World super series: Quarter-finals: R Eyles (Aus) bt A Hands (Eng) 15-12, 15-8, 15-12; C Walker (Eng) bt F Usaincizaga (Arg) 9-15, 15-9, 15-9, 15-11; P Marshall (Eng) bt D Harris (Eng) 15-12, 15-17, 15-7, 15-9; S Martin (Aus) bt H Wiener (Ger) 15-8, 15-13, 8-15, 14-13, 15-11. Semi-finals: Eyles bt Marsh 15-13, 12-15, 13-15, 15-13, 15-12; Marshall bt Walker 15-8, 15-13, 15-12.

TABLE TENNIS

TAIPEI: World Cup: Quarter-finals: J-M Saive (Bel) bt C Peng-lung (Tai) 21-16, 20-22, 19-21, 21-16, 21-14; Z Phinorac (Cro) bt J Huang (Can) 21-15, 21-19, 18-21, 21-12; J-P Gatien (Fr) bt W Tao (China) 15-21, 21-19, 21-18, 22-20; J-O Waldner (Swe) bt K Linghui (China) 13-21, 21-18, 8-21, 21-13, 21-17.

YACHTING

BOC CHALLENGE: Leading positions: Class 1: 1, Soete Calverson (C Auguin, Fr) 961miles; 2, Hunter's Child (S Pessenglli, US) 1,051; 3, Novell South Africa (J Provoyeur, SA) 1,758; 4, Vendee Entreprises (J-L van der Heede, Fr) 1,781. Class 2: 1, True Blue (D Adams, Aus) 1,403; 2, Kodak (G Soldin, It) 1,588; 3, Newcastle Australia (A Nebauer, Aus) 2,577; 4, Jamroda II (C Vaughan, GB) 2,583.

RUGBY UNION 27
YOUTH POLICY HELPS TO STOP SLIDE AT NORTHAMPTON

SPORT

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17 1994

B

SIMON BARNES 30
SHOULD FOOTBALLERS PUT FAITH IN SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE?

England fret as Fletcher tries to rally troops

Alan Lee, in Queensland, on the continuing trials and tribulations of the touring cricket team

A FORTNIGHT of one-day cricket in Australia has brought headaches all round. While England's management called a team meeting last night to demand that its dispirited players look forward with renewed purpose, Australia's administrators were obliged to look back with considerable anxiety.

England's concerns are public and obvious. They are in awful form, have a chaotic injury list and it is hard to fathom where their next win is coming from. Keith Fletcher, the team manager, was asked repeatedly yesterday if he intended to resign. He said he did not.

By comparison, the problems of the Australian game are esoteric. They involve white balls gathering dirt, umpires sharing responsibility and crowds taking leave of their senses. But, like England's ineptitude, all of these issues have been amplified by the first half of the World Series Cup competition that now, mercifully, takes its midsummer break.

England may have only three more games to play in it, their chances of qualifying for the best-of-three final having sharply receded with the unexpected defeat by Zimbabwe on Thursday, but by the time they don the Union Jack pyjamas again, the direction of this tour — already ominously signposted — will be fixed beyond recall.

That knowledge was responsible for the pensive expression of Michael Atherton, the captain, as England arrived in the hillside town of Toowoomba, 100 miles inland from Brisbane, where today they begin a four-day game against Queensland. It also explained why Fletcher, predictably the new target of those who demand a high-profile head each time England hit trouble, spoke passionately of the need to concentrate on matters ahead.

The second Test match begins a week today, the third follows immediately. In England's bleak mood the Ashes could be lost in that period and Fletcher, properly, was at pains to point out that, no matter the small indignities of one-day defeats, the real business of the Test series has barely begun.

"This might seem strange but I think we can still win the series," he said. It did sound strange, but what else could he say? "The team is hopeless"? "I am helpless"? "I resign"? Understandably, he said none of these, insisting for public consumption that he has every intention of seeing out his five-year contract, now a little less than halfway through.

There is, however, no denying that Fletcher cuts a worried and somewhat solitary figure, nor that he is having difficulty establishing a rapport with players who do not naturally relate to his ways. He is loyal to them, as he has always been to his players, but whether he is achieving anything for them is another matter.

Fletcher cited "lack of confidence" as the main factor contributing to England's trough. "The players have to start believing in their ability and some of them don't at the moment," he said. But he was also seeking, he added, "a few home truths. It is time for a few people to hold up their hands and say how they have been playing".

Once manager and captain had said their pieces behind the team-room door last night, it was the turn of the physiotherapist, Dave Roberts, and his words were perhaps the bleakest of all. England just about had 11 fit men for the fixture today but, with Atherton and Alec Stewart handicapped by back trouble, competition for places was a thing of the past.

Craig White, who has torn side muscles, and Joey Benjamin, who has shingles, may have no further part to play on the tour and if this is confirmed — probably on Monday — Dominic Cork will be the second of the stand-by players to receive a summons to duty and will arrive in Melbourne in time for the second Test, which starts on Christmas Eve.

Melbourne is the focus of Australian concern over crowd behaviour, after the conduct of a section of the 40,000 there on Tuesday. New security measures are to be put in place for forthcoming day-night games on the ground but there was a chilling warning, reminiscent of English football troubles of some years back, from the general manager of the Melbourne club, John Lill. "If people come deliberately to disrupt the game," he said, "then nothing is going to solve the problem."

Australian officials are also scratching their heads over the fact that the white balls being used for day-night matches are getting so grubby that it is very difficult to see them towards the end of an innings, and over a means of achieving consistency in umpires referring line decisions to their colleague with the replay monitor without bringing every game to a standstill.

England were harshly treated on Thursday when Grant Flower, Zimbabwe's man of the match, survived an appeal for a run-out. It was not passed to the available technology, which would have shown that Flower was out. Wisely, however, Fletcher and Atherton were yesterday no more inclined to make this an excuse for their predicament than they were to claim their batsmen could not see the ball. Some dignity, at least, is being maintained.

QUEENSLAND (from): I A Healy (captain), T J Barsby, M L Hayden, M L Love, J P Maher, A Symonds, S G Law, C J McDermott, G J Rowell, M S Kasprowicz, C G Rackemann, D Tazelaar.

ENGLAND (from): M A Atherton (captain), A J Stewart, G A Hick, G P Thorpe, G A Gooch, J P Crawley, M W Gatting, D Gough, S D Udal, S J Rhodes, P C R Tufnell, A R C Fraser, D E Malcolm.



Fletcher: optimistic

Couples steps up pressure on Els

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN MONTEGO BAY

THE terrifying prospect for the sponsors at the start of the second day of the Johnnie Walker world golf championship at the Tryall course here in Jamaica was that Ernie Els, like Larry Mize the previous year, would simply set sail for home and reduce the rest to flotsam bobbing along in his wake.

The big South African, compared by many to Jack Nicklaus and described by Curtis Strange as the game's next "God", which is roughly the same, has the Normanesque capacity to humiliate a course when he puts his mind to it.

The danger, in a relaxed made-for-television event like this, is that the pursuers all too quickly settle for the minor places — while still earning major money — knowing that their work for the year has been done.

In January, Els shot 61 on the way to winning the Dubai Classic, his first win in a European tour event. But, worryingly for those who thought his mind might be as lazy as his swing, his victory in the US Open at Oakmont owed more to guts than gift, as he recovered from a bogey five and a triple-bogey seven on the opening two holes of his play-off round to win his first major the hard way. "Ernie's got a lot of game," Loren Roberts, the American, commented at the time. Doubtless it would have been the case if the game had been rugby or tennis, both of which briefly tempted Els away from golf in his youth.

Had he not taken four putts on the 11th, missing from two feet on the third of them, Els might have been out of sight by the end of the first day in Tryall after a string of eight birdies in the last ten holes had set up a round of 64, seven under par. Most would have tried to preserve that round in aspic, but within minutes of the finish, Els was back on the practice ground under the stern eye of his coach, David Leadbetter, still searching for something better.

I suppose we should have known that Els was serious about his golf when he named his Rotweiler Hogan and chose to use his more alliterative second name, Ernie, to his christian name, Theodore. Like Faldo, Els is set on spending more time on the American tour next year and is building a house in Florida in preparation.

Yesterday, Els showed glimpses of both sides of his game in the opening two holes. Paired with Mark McCumber, the 43-year-old American, who could just establish eye contact standing on tiptoe, Els went through his usual routine, bouncing the ball on his driver, out of habit more than nerves, before depositing his first drive into thick rough on the left side of the fairway. He heaved his second shot the trees into a bunker and his third, an indistinguished splash, eight feet wide, but there was a sense of inevitability as he rolled his putt into the hole for a par worthy of Gary Player, the man with whom he has been most often compared.

Els acknowledged the clipped tones of a countryman — "we want you to win this, man" — with a shake of the hand before an effortless iron into the second green suggested that the "beautiful rhythm" of his swing — in the words of Tom Watson — had returned, even though he left the downhill putt an inch or two short.

Els's only rival as the laziest swinger in town, Fred Couples, was the first to make a serious move on the second day. The American, two over par after an indifferent opening, produced five birdies in his outward nine, went to sleep in the midday sun for four holes, dropping three shots, before the wake-up call arrived in the form of four more birdies in the last five holes. The inaugural champion here ended his day four under par and respectably placed to mount a challenge over the last two days. This, it seems, is Couples's type of event and his time of the year.

"There's no practice involved. I'm playing with my friends, so we just hang out for five days and the week seems to go by real quick. It's off season and I enjoy it. It's been that way for six or seven years now," Couples said. Of the British contingent, David Gilford made the most impressive early progress, a series of five birdies in seven holes round the turn putting the quiet Ryder Cup player onto the heals of the leader at five under par midway through the second day. Also in the pack on that score were Colin Montgomerie and Nick Faldo. But any chance that Severiano Ballesteros had of getting into contention evaporated in a flurry of dropped shots, three in two holes, at the 7th and 8th.

DETAILS

FIRST-ROUND SCORES (US unless stated): 64: E Els (SA) 67: M McCumber, N Faldo (GB), C Montgomerie (GB). 68: J Maggert, L Roberts 69: R Allenby (Aus), T Lehmann 70: D Frost (SA), C Mason (GB), L Mize B Langer (Ger), I Woosnam (GB) 71: D Gilford (GB), P Azinger, T Kite, N Price (Zim). 72: C Parry (Aus), B Faxon, 73: J Huston, S Ballesteros (Sp), F Zoeller, F Couples 75: V Singh (Fiji)

IAN STEWART



Ballesteros on the way to a 72 in the second round of the Johnnie Walker world championship yesterday

Losses jeopardise Scotland's plans

FROM KEVIN McCARRA IN ATHENS

SCOTLAND'S sense of jeopardy over the European championship football match with Greece tomorrow was magnified on arrival here yesterday. The party, having flown in from a training camp in Malta, found that its cases had been plundered.

Craig Brown, the coach, fears even more losses of another nature since Stuart McCall, of Rangers, and Colin Hendry, of Blackburn Rovers, are injured and doubtful.

At Athens airport, the Scottish players discovered that money, credit cards, and gifts had been stolen. Thieves also made off with medical supplies belonging to the team physiotherapist.

The crude piece of ransacking enraged officials in the party. Jim Farry, chief executive of the Scottish Football Association, is intent on pursuing the matter, initially threatening to call off the game. It is likely an official protest will be made by Doug McKellar, consular official.

Diplomatic incidents, however, are less important than the damage to Brown's plans for the match. McCall, who picked up a minor knock, and Hendry were both injured in a highly competitive training match with the under-21 team. Brown would regret the absence of McCall, who had been earmarked for the job of countering Vassilis Tsartas, the Greece striker. Hendry, who has hurt the knee on which an operation was performed last month, would be an even more calamitous loss since Scotland are running out of centre halves.

Brian Martin, of Motherwell, had already withdrawn after pulling a hamstring. If he is without Hendry, too, Brown will be forced to field Craig Levein, even though he is in the midst of a ten-match suspension at club level with Heart of Midlothian. The defender has not played in earnest since November 16.

RESULTS: Finland 0 Scotland 2, Faroe Islands 1 Greece 5, Scotland 6 Faroe Islands 1, Greece 4 Finland 0, Russia 4 San Marino 0, Scotland 1 Russia 1, Greece 2 San Marino 0, Finland 5 Faroe Islands 0, Finland 4 San Marino 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	3	3	0	0	11	1	6
Scotland	3	2	1	0	8	2	5
Finland	4	2	0	2	9	7	4
Russia	2	1	1	0	5	1	3
San Marino	3	0	0	3	1	10	0
Faeroe Isl	3	0	0	3	2	16	0

FIXTURES: Tomorrow: Greece v Scotland. 1996: Mar 29: Russia v Scotland, San Marino v Finland. Apr 26: San Marino v Scotland, Greece v Russia, Faeroe Islands v Finland. May 6: Russia v Faeroe Islands. May 25: Faeroe Islands v San Marino. Jun 7: Faeroe Islands v Scotland, San Marino v Russia. Jun 11: Finland v Greece. Aug 16: Scotland v Greece, Finland v Russia. Sept 6: Scotland v Finland, Faeroe Islands v Russia, San Marino v Greece. Oct 11: Russia v Greece, Faeroe Islands v San Marino. Nov 15: Scotland v San Marino, Russia v Finland, Greece v Faeroe Islands.

Spencer's tall order, page 31

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Downwardly mobile Strobl finds quick route to fame



Strobl: surprised

Josef Strobl, of Austria, emerged from the fragmented start to the World Cup skiing season yesterday to become the only man in the history of the sport to win a downhill race at his first attempt.

The feat of the 20-year-old soldier, from Lech, did not, however, receive the acclaim it deserved from the crowds in Val d'Isère because he snatched victory from the grasp of a Frenchman, Luc Alphand.

The home supporters were already celebrating what they thought was the first victory by a Frenchman in Val d'Isère for 28 years when Strobl, starting in 61st position, bettered Alphand's time of 1min 57.41sec by crossing the line in 1min 57.30sec. "It was a big shock because, after an hour, I really thought I had won it at last," Alphand said, "but to be second is my best-ever result."

Strobl was equally taken aback. "I only hoped to finish among the top 30," he said. "The piste suited me fine, I was not nervous, I knew I had nothing to lose."

Despite his lowly start position, Strobl attacked the course with confidence after finishing fastest in practice on Thursday and seeing Alphand set the pace on the same skis as he uses.

Piero Gros and Gustav Thoeni, of Italy, remain the only racers to have won their first World Cup races — both giant-slaloms, and both at Val d'Isère — but Strobl's achievement, in his third race, is all the more astounding as he considers himself to be best at giant slaloms.

Soldier skis into record books to confound French hopes of glory

"I'm better in giants, but for some strange reasons I'm doing better in downhills this season," he said. Strobl had marked his potential by winning the giant slalom gold among a clutch of four medals at the world junior championships last year, and scored his first World Cup points in a giant slalom last season.

Strobl's triumph came on a good day for the Austrians, with Gunther Mader finishing third in 1min 57.17sec and the pre-race favourite, Patrick Ortlieb, fourth in 1min 57.13sec. France also had reason for satisfaction with three finishers in the top ten, Jean-Luc Cretier coming sixth and Christophe Ple ninth.

Alphand, who has been on the circuit for seven years, put down his success to having shaken off a lengthy list of injuries — "Now that I'm fit and healthy, good results are coming my way at last," he said — and the French squad's liberal approach to diet. "We realised the fat ones fared better in downhills," Alphand, who beefed up from 12st 5lb to 13st 6lb in a year, said.

Strobl, who weighs in at a trim 12st 4lb, may disprove that theory. Whether he is merely a first-time wonder may be more clear after the second downhill of the weekend at Val d'Isère today.

Alberto Tomba, who profited from Strobl's surprise win to remain head of the overall World Cup standings, competes in the giant slalom tomorrow.

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هكذا من الأصل

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SHOPPING



Brilliant baubles that bring seasonal sparkle

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PLUS: Gems with the individual touch, page 8

WEEKEND

THE TIMES RED CROSS APPEAL



The well-spoken former schoolteacher, wearing his filthy woollen coat with dignity, sadly describes, in French, his last days in Rwanda. "People were decapitated; women slashed through their stomachs with machetes; the same done to babies, even the very youngest. No one was spared. So everyone fled, even the smallest of us."

At Goma, across the border in Zaire, where bombs and grenades still explode with frightening regularity through the night, the ragged columns of refugees simply turned right, walked another 17 miles and then stopped from exhaustion on the waterless hump of volcanic rock that is Kibumba; a tidal wave of human misery that threatens the very stability of the African continent.

Since April, one million Rwandans have died in a bloodbath which began when the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front took control of the country. In July, a further 1.2 million refugees fled across the borders to Zaire, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda, prompting the biggest worldwide aid operation mounted by the Red Cross this year.

Now it is the end of the rainy season, and, in Kibumba and Kahindo, two of the Red Cross camps, muddy, stinking streams bubble between thousands of mud and grass shacks built around makeshift wooden frames and waterproofed with bright blue, yellow and green plastic sheeting; these festive colours a sick joke pasted over the misery which squats beneath. As we wander, horrified, through this apology for suburbia, skinny women cradling skinnier babies, and scabies and snot-covered children clothed in smelly rags scramble towards us and proudly produce, as if by a miracle, brightly coloured and perfectly symmetrical pots and baskets, woven from discarded pieces of plastic.

By Ruth Gledhill

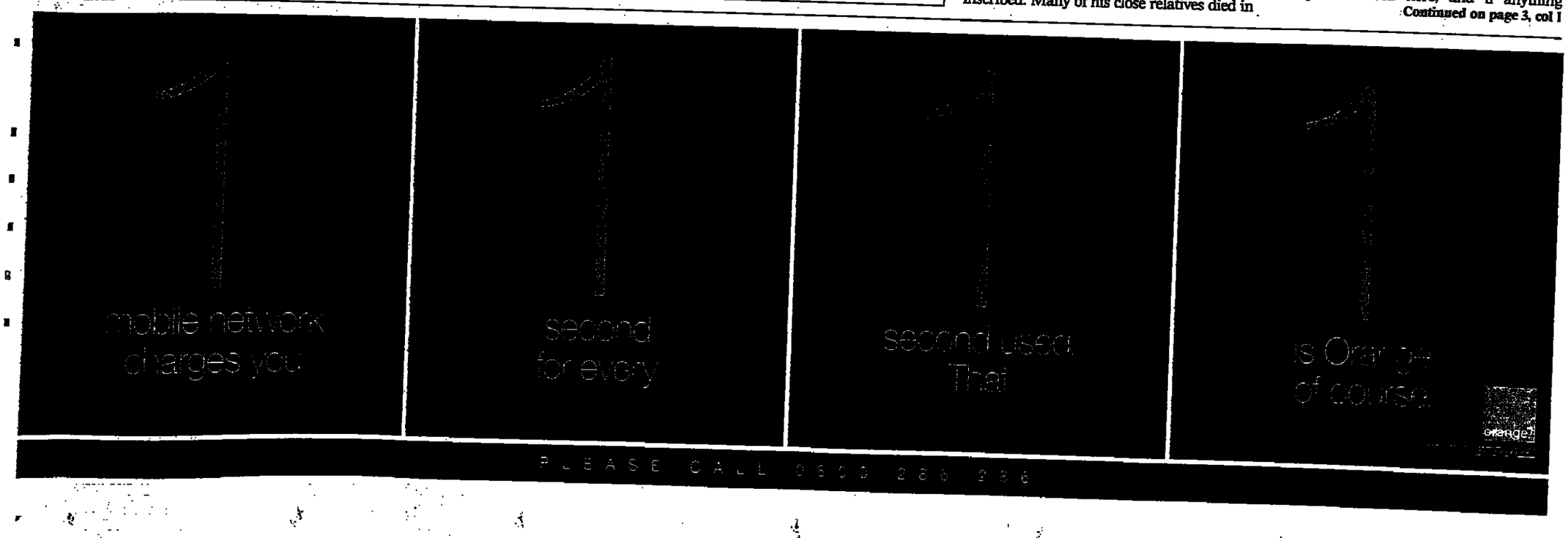
Each passage through Kibumba camp produces exponentially expanding crowds of tiny followers crying *Muzungu*, "white person" in the refugees' Kinyarwandan language. Children crowd round and rub our hands and faces, squealing with laughter and delight and inspecting their own hands to see if the whiteness has rubbed off. Eventually, this overwhelming crowd is brought under control by a Red Cross volunteer, Raphael, who wields a large stick, and their teacher, Sylvestre Gafrere, who is 54 but looks older.

On the laval mountain nearby, Mr Gafrere has set up his school, where he teaches these children to read, write and dance. He shows me his proudest possession, a sheet of paper with the first three vowels, a, e and i, neatly inscribed. Many of his close relatives died in the fighting but, like all the refugees we speak to, the trauma of his losses makes it difficult for him to articulate them. His hope is to return to Rwanda but, as he says it in the French that most educated Rwandans speak fluently, his eyes express despair. Most refugees are too scared to go back, their fear fuelled by reports of continued killing.

In July and August more than 45,000 people died from cholera and dysentery as they fled Rwanda. Their bodies littered the roadside. Many simply gave up and stopped walking. As one aid worker put it: "There was no water, no food and they couldn't even dig a hole to shit in." An entire society has transplanted itself here, and if anything

Continued on page 3, col 1

HOW YOU CAN HELP
Details and coupon on page 3



2 CHOICE

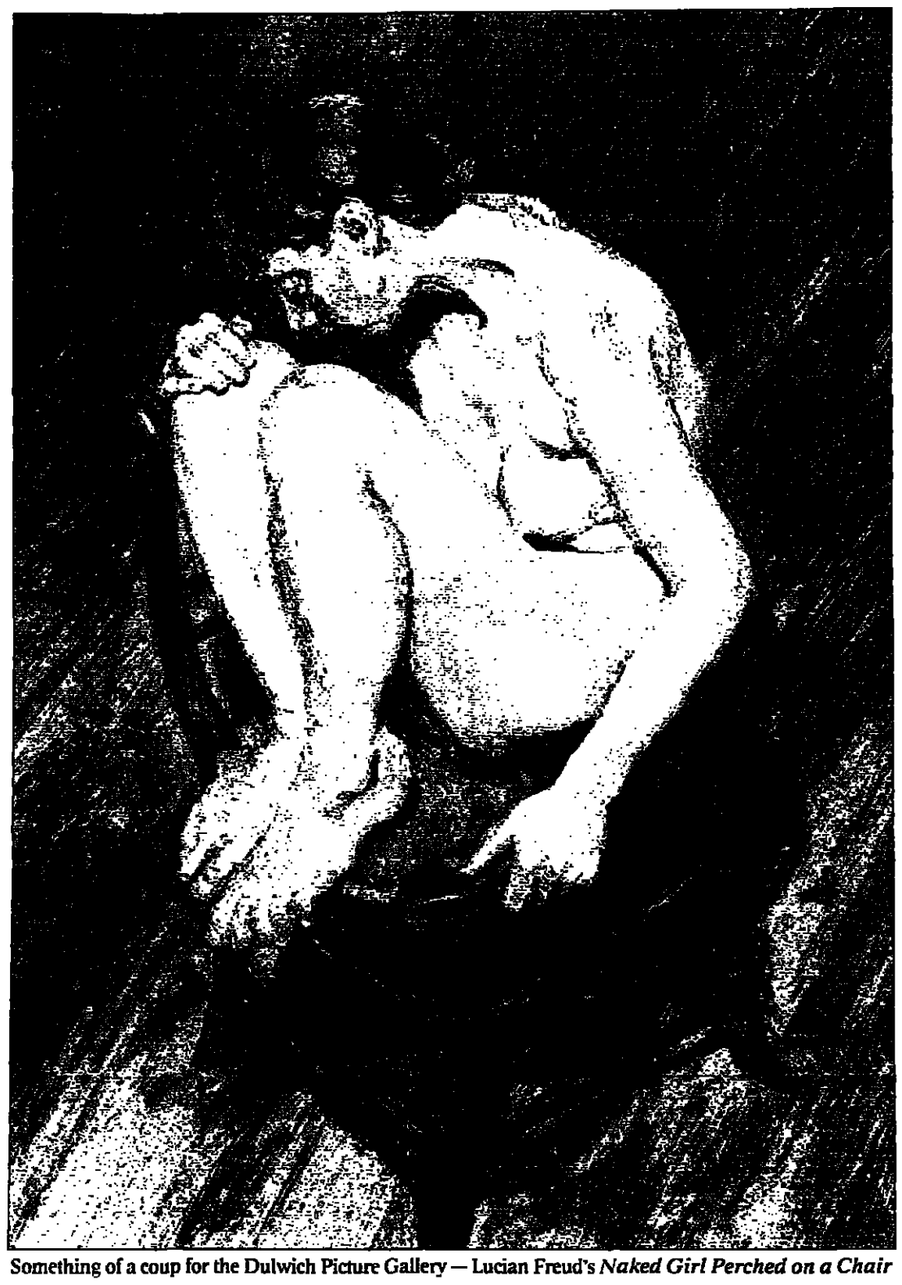
Planning an evening out or a day with your family? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

LUCIAN FREUD: Now that our finest figurative painter enjoys such a following in America, most of his new pictures are sent over to his New York dealer without an airing here. So the Dulwich Picture Gallery has scored something of a coup in securing a show of four Freuds, all completed this year. Since the gallery's major Rubens of *Venus, Mars and Cupid* has recently been transformed by cleaning, director Giles Waterfield decided to hang the Freuds among the 17th-century Flemish paintings at Dulwich. Freud's two largest canvases concentrate, respectively, on his familiar shaven-headed male model Leigh Bowery, and a frankly overweight female nude called *Benefit Supervisor Resting*. How will she measure up to the competition posed by Rubens' full-length goddess? A visit to Dulwich, where an outstanding Old Master collection is housed in Soane's neo-classical building, is in order.
Dulwich Picture Gallery, College Rd, SE21, (081-693 5254), until January 8.

WOLFGANG LAIB: Back in the summer, an extraordinary bees-wax chamber was installed in the Henry Moore Studio at Dean Clough, Halifax. Now it has travelled to the Camden Arts Centre in north London. And the artist, Wolfgang Laib, has made the chamber even more mysterious. The exterior is no longer visible. Instead, visitors are invited to walk through an opening in a wall. Once inside, our senses are assailed by the heady smells of wax and honey. Dim light-bulbs provide the only illumination. The suggestion of an Egyptian tomb is countered by an unexpected feeling of beneficence.
Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Rd, NW3 (071-435 2643) until January 22.



Something of a coup for the Dulwich Picture Gallery — Lucian Freud's *Naked Girl Perched on a Chair*

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

GRIMM TALES: Refreshingly robust fun for tots who are unafraid of seeing the eyes of Cinderella's step-sisters reduced to stringy offal by birds, and for adults willing to put themselves in the place of a sausage cohabiting with a mouse and a bird.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Evenings tonight, Wed and Thurs at 7.00pm. Matinees today, 2.30pm. Mon, 10.30am and 2.30pm. Tues and Wed, 1.30pm. Thurs and Fri, 2.30pm.

SUNSET BOULEVARD: Elaine Paige is spending the festive period teetering down John Napier's Tutankhamun-rococo staircase: and very impressive her over-the-hill movie queen proves, both when she is forlornly singing Andrew Lloyd Webber's songs and exuding feisty yet fragile charisma.
Adelphi, Strand, WC2 (071-344 0055). Today and Mon to Fri, 7.45pm. Matinees today and Thurs, 3.00 pm.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET (U): A smiling, bewhiskered Richard Attenborough presides over this remake of the 1947 holiday classic about a department store Santa in New York who believes himself the genuine article. Writer-producer John Hughes updates some details, though the amounts of sentiment and fantasy now appear bigger than ever. Les Mayfield's direction emphasises the clichés, and the cast, bar Attenborough and young Mara Wilson, is unexceptional. But if you want a traditional Hollywood Christmas, this is the only film that will satisfy.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426 915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).



Miracle on 34th Street tells a Hollywood Christmas tale

PRINCESS CARABOO (PG): With most new releases aiming their sights on young children, adults should derive modest pleasure from this lavishly appointed historical souffle from British writer-director Michael Austin, based on a true story of 1817. Is Phoebe Cates's engimatic young lady — all regal smiles, haughty flounces and bizarre foreign words — a true princess from a Far Eastern island? The lively performances, droll dialogue and array of exotic costumes provide a wealth of incidental pleasures. The extravagant cast includes Jim Broadbent (very funny), Kevin Kline, Wendy Hughes and John Lithgow.
MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

CHORAL NIGHTS: Some excellent choirs are on display in London this week. At the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Tallis Scholars present a Christmas programme taken entirely from the Renaissance. The lesser-known Fayrfax and Hassler are interspersed with Palestrina, Byrd, Lassus and Victora. Meanwhile, at St John's, Smith Square, The Sixteen mixes much the same repertoire with some modern carols: as does the choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. And in the same church on Thursday the excellent Danish National Radio Choir offers "Christmas from Copenhagen". Performances of the Messiah are at St John's on Wed and Fri.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Thur, 7.30pm. **Christ Church Cathedral**, Oxford (0865 276154). Tues, 7.30pm. Thurs, 7.30pm. **St John's**, Smith Square, London SW1 (071-222 1061). Mon, 7.30pm. Wed and Fri, 7.30pm.

WIGMORE CHRISTMAS: Tonight's "Wigmore Christmas Cracker" really does live up to its name, with the vocal luminaries led by Thomas Allen and the fine American coloratura soprano Barbara Kilduff, and instrumentalists including the cellist Natalie Clein, European Young Musician of the Year, and oboist Nicholas Daniel. The programme ranges from Schubert to some very silly items indeed.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St, London W1 (071-935 2141). Today, 7.30pm

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

TIME MACHINE: The British Museum has normally, in its exhibition programme, settled for conservative splendour. "Time Machine", on the contrary, is brilliantly innovative. The idea has been to get a dozen artists, whose work already shows imaginative involvement with ancient Egypt, to contribute artworks which can somehow be inserted into the context of the main Egyptian galleries. Superb Mitorajs (one a rapt marble head lying in a shallow ancient bowl) focus our attention on their surroundings, while magical Andy Goldsworthy installations of leaf and stone and sand nestle inside sarcophagi, tempting us to look closer.
British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-636 1555) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 2.30-6pm, until February 26.

LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: Richard Dighton (1796-1880) lived and worked in Cheltenham from 1828 to 1841, catering to the (usually rather modest) artistic requirements of fashionable residents and visitors. His speciality was the watercolour portrait, generally done full length and in profile. His paintings are particularly revealing of contemporary ideas of fashion and grooming. Thirty of his sparkling portraits are on show, along with original costume accessories and documentation of life in Regency and early Victorian Cheltenham.
Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, (0242 237431) Mon-Sat 10am-5.20pm, until January 14.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

LA TRAVIATA: Last chance to catch Richard Eyre's hugely popular production of *Traviata*-as-tear-jerker, graced by the ethereal, beautifully sung Violetta of Angela Gheorghiu — alone worth the price of a ticket — and not a lot else. If Verdi's opera merely jerks tears, then it has failed: it is bigger than that — a human tragedy, not a sentimental melodrama. Unrepentant, I crawl back under my stone. This is also the last chance to catch *any* opera at Covent Garden until the middle of January. Measly planning, says I.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (071-304 4000). Mon, 7.30pm.

FIGARO'S WEDDING: A good revival of Graham Vick's straightforward but sharp-edged production of Mozart's *comédie humaine*, snazzily designed by Richard Hudson (off-the-wall sets, traditional costumes). It's an ensemble performance, with Rosa Mannion's beautifully sung Countess standing out from among the leads and some especially neat supporting interpretations — Susan Bickley's ripe Marcellina, John Connell's roundly sung Bartolo and Sally Harrison's enormously naughty Barbarina. The Sams translation comes over loud and clear, embarrassingly so for a company needlessly dickering with the introduction of surtitles. The conducting of Derrick Inouye, from Canada, has some icy passages.
This is also the last chance to catch any opera at the Coliseum until the middle of January. Wake up, Arts Council.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161). Tonight, 7pm.

DANCE

John Percival

CINDERELLA: After two final performances today of the "Ashton Remembered" programme including *The Dream* and *Façade*, the Royal Ballet revives one of Frederick Ashton's ballets that has never been forgotten: *Cinderella*. Created in 1948 to Sergei Prokofiev's best ballet score, it successfully combines two traditions: pure classical ballet for the love story and the brilliant dances of the *corps de ballet* and soloists, and English pantomime for the stepsisters.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-304 4000). Today, 2pm, 7pm. Fri and Mon, 2pm, 7pm. Tues, Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, also January 3, 14, 7.30pm.

THE NUTCRACKER: Two different versions open in London on successive nights. English National Ballet has its traditional South Bank season of Ben Stevenson's production (to be followed this year, exceptionally, by a week of *Swan Lake*). Peter Wright's staging for Birmingham Royal Ballet, hitherto seen only in its home town, comes south for the first time for three weeks at the Coliseum.
Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Wed 21 to Jan 14, 7.30pm, matinees 2.30pm. **London Coliseum**, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-632 8300). Thurs to Jan 7, 7.30pm. Matinees 2.30pm.

ROCK

David Sinclair

MANIC STREET PREACHERS: It has been a year of high drama for the self-styled "generation terrorists" from Wales. The dark, self-loathing tone of their album, *The Holy Bible* — a flailing musical portrait of a group on the verge of meltdown — assumed a new dimension when rhythm guitarist and lyricist Richey James suffered a mental breakdown in the summer. The band played a memorable set at the Reading Festival without him, but he rejoined the ranks for a subsequent tour of the provinces. They are advertising themselves as all present and correct for a final string of shows in the capital this week, but it is always touch and go with this lot.
Astoria, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (071-434 0403), Dec 19 to 21, 7.30pm.

ZZ TOP: They may have lost their knack for turning out deceptively simple hit singles about sharply dressed men and shapely female legs, but the Texan trio's current album, *Antenna*, has quietly sold around 2 million copies since it was released earlier this year. And never underestimate the fun to be



ZZ Top's Methuselahs

had at their shows. When last seen over here, at the Milton Keynes Bowl in 1991, the rock'n'roll Methuselahs combined a sense of languid ease with momentous power as they performed their divine brand of heavy blues-rock while perpetrating a series of outlandish visual jokes and theatrical stunts. For maximum enjoyment, fans are advised to practise their synchronised dance steps.
NEC, Birmingham (021-780 4133). Dec 21, 7.30pm: **Wembley Arena**, Middlesex (081-900 1234), Dec 22, 7.30pm.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

BOB WILBER: Rounding off a busy year in the studio (his latest project is a four-tenor tribute to Coleman Hawkins), the graceful clarinetist Bob Wilber plays host at another of his series of Christmas parties. In the 1940s, when he was feted as one of the hottest young talents to come out of New York, Wilber was taken under the wing of the great Sidney Bechet. He pays homage to the master on Tuesday, in the company of Wally Fawkes. The season opens tomorrow with a guest appearance by the French vibraphone player Dany Doriz, followed on Monday by a tribute to Benny Goodman featuring clarinetist Dave Shepherd. On Wednesday Wilber will be joined by swing tenor man Tommy Whittle, while another vibes player, Alan Randall, sits in on Thursday. Trumpeter Kenny Baker, riding high on his excellent big band album *The Boss Is Home*, will be the guest star on the closing night.
Pizza On The Park, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-235 5273). Tomorrow to Fri.

MIKE WESTBROOK: A collection of outlaws, intent on defying musical conventions, his orchestra is a joy to behold. As part of a four-concert residency at Blackheath, Mike Westbrook will be leading performances from his idiosyncratic *Big Band Rossini* album, as well as selections from earlier works, among them the strident jazz-rock of *Citadel/Room 315* and his more gentle settings of poems by William Blake. Kate Westbrook, as ever, provides the vocals.
Blackheath Concert Halls, Lee Rd, London SE3 (081-463 0100). Fri.

CHILDREN

LONDON

Christmas holiday activities: sort out a jumbled selection of heads, bodies, legs and phrases and identify the pictures they belong to. Sounds marvellous.
National Gallery, Trafalgar Square WC2. (071-839 3321). Today from 10am, tomorrow from 2pm and until January 3. Admission free.

Christmas quiz: Churchill's favourite champagne as a prize, and a chance to swot up on history before next term.
Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, SE1. (071-582 2525). Today, tomorrow and until Jan 8, 10am-6pm. Adults £3.90, children £1.95, family (four children) £10.50.

Indian style: celebrate the Indian way with live carol performances on the sitar and tabla. Also make your own gifts.



V & A's Indian Christmas

Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8500). Today and tomorrow from 10.30am. Also until Dec 22. Admission free.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Make your own 3-D Christmas cards, with the junior section of the Wildlife Trust. Five to eight-year-olds must be accompanied.
Visitor Centre, Priory Country Park, Bedford (0234 364213). Tomorrow from 10.30am. Members 30p, non-members 50p(but ring first).

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Cinderella: a traditional pantomime.
The Limelight, Queens Park, Aylesbury (0296 431272). From Wednesday at 7.30pm. Adults £5, children £3.50.

HUMBERSIDE

Home to Roost: a walk to look for roosting hen harriers.
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Blacktoft Sands nature reserve (0405 704294). Today and tomorrow, 3pm. Adults £1 (members) or £2 (non-members); children 50p (members); £1 (non-members).

OXFORDSHIRE

Great Expectations: the musical starring Nyree Dawn Porter and Brian Glover.
The Apollo Theatre, George Street, Oxford (0865 244544). Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm. Adults and children from £8.50 (one adult can purchase two half-price children's tickets).

MIDLOTHIAN

Santa Cruise: bet you didn't know Santa has his own Scottish island. Take a boat trip and see for yourself.
The Bridge Inn, 27 Baird Road, Ratho, Midlothian (031-333 1320). Book in advance. Every day until Dec 24 from 10.30am. Adults, children £4.50.

SUSSEX

Fantastic Mr Fox: pantomime based on Roald Dahl's story.
Pavilion Theatre, Marine Parade, Worthing (0903 820500). Today, 2.30pm, 7pm; tomorrow, 2.30pm and until Dec 31. Adults £6, children £5.

TYNE AND WEAR

Steam train ride with Santa: receive a present and munch mince pies.
Bowes Railway Centre, Springwall Village, Gateshead (091-257 4709). Today, 11am-3pm. Adults £3.50, children £2.50.

CARDIFF

Lightship 2000 Christmas Grotto: come on board to see Santa at this old ship, moored in Cardiff Bay.
(0222 667773). Today, 12am-4.30pm; tomorrow, 2pm-4.30. Adults, children £1. (Limited).

YORKSHIRE

Punch and Judy: Santa's grotto; children's roundabout and brass band at this Grassington Dickensian Christmas.
Meet at the square today from 11am onwards. (0756 752463). Admission free.

Christmas canal-boat rides: guess which surprise visitor comes on board?
Wharf Street, Shipley (0274 595914). Today, tomorrow from 1.30pm. Adults £1.95; over-fives £4.25; under-fives £3.50.

HEATHER ALSTON

Ruth Gledhill on a school's spiritual journey towards Christmas

AT YOUR SERVICE



THROUGH THE darkness lit dimly by the candles floating before us we could just make out the assembled choir in striped school ties and bright white shirts. It seemed as if an entire community had turned out for the local Catholic school's Advent service, an evening event which puts the average school assembly in the spiritual shade. I sat next to Ciaran Phillips, 9, from St Vincent's primary school in Mill Hill, whose father Patrick, an RE teacher, was helping out backstage.

St Gregory's, which has 1,100 pupils aged 11 to 18, was doing spiritual battle against the fleshly and materialistic bombardments which threaten all western children and their parents at this time of year. Michael Coughlan, an RE teacher, led us in the march onwards: "The shops started three or four weeks ago," he said. "We are here to press the start button on the spiritual journey of Christmas. This is not a concert but a spiritual event."

We sat still while a procession of children, softly singing *Silent Night*, passed among us bearing candles, their faces angelic in the flickering light. Teacher Mary-Anne Barrett said: "For many of us the words silent, holy, calm and bright are not words that we would use to describe the experience of our lives. This is the very reason why the Father sent Jesus into the world. He came as one who would bring light into our darkness and healing into our broken lives."

The evening became one where young adolescents acted out the heartbreak and trauma of adult life with an uncanny prescience in words that we could only pray would never become flesh. Between sketches of poverty and bleak presentations of the horror of war and abortion were songs, carols and a challenge to us to "start with ourselves . . . acknowledge that there is darkness in our lives, that we are at times sinful people, that we do need help." The highlight was a powerful solo by former sixth-former Catherine Hannon, her *I will never forget you my people* sung like a soul professional.

ALAN WELLER



St Gregory's pupils Anthony John, left, and Neil Gibbons

The aim of the service is to "bring pupils, staff, parents and parishes into an awareness of the brokenness and darkness in our world so that we can come to a place of reconciliation and wholeness". It arose from weekly prayer meetings which began after the Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism visited the school. Parts of the service were almost inexpressibly moving, but nothing touched me so much as the pupils who, as I left, were standing outside the gates and were attempting to outdo each other in irreligiosity. "Nah, I'm not religious," said one. "Not me," said another. But they were outshone by the sturdy child who pointed and said: "I'm about as religious as that tree."

"Set Me Free" Advent Service at St Gregory's Roman Catholic School (Grant Maintained), Donnington Road, Kenton, Middlesex HA3 ONB (081-907 8828).

HEAD TEACHER: Martin Earley

ARCHITECTURE: Although the functional character of the main assembly hall was redeemed somewhat by the beauty of candlelight, the 1960s building evoked in me spine-chilling reminiscences of the red-brick ruthlessness employed to transform my old grammar school in the Midlands into a modern comprehensive.

SERMON: Personal testimony from teacher Karl McCloskey: "God touches our hearts and maybe even uses us to touch the hearts of the broken-hearted among us." ★★★★

LITURGY: Designed to address moral issues such as war, poverty and abortion.★★★

MUSIC: Soulful sounds from school orchestra and choir. "Who can sound the depths of sorrow... For the children we've rejected, for the lives so deeply scarred," we heard in one song.★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Hot mince pies, mulled wine and orange juice, with counselling for those who needed it.★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: A healing experience, particularly for those among us who regarded their schooldays as the most thoroughly miserable of their lives. ★★★★★

★ *stars are awarded to a maximum of five.*

هكذا من الأصل

'She let the baby fall and didn't look back'

Continued from page 1

transcends the grief and squalor of this place it is their collective will to live.

Some managed to bring cows, goats, bicycles and even the occasional car over the border. At Kibumba some started trading from shacks, selling kebabs, baskets, pots and pans until a makeshift high street appeared. On the side of the road, a barber plies his trade, a few poles strung together frame his "shop". Nearby, Edward Sebukene, 74, a traditional healer, keeps watch over his gathered community from his smarter-than-average shack. He walks miles each day in search of plants for his ancient medicines, and spends hours teaching his art to his son. Aid workers describe with considerable awe how, by smothering him with rare plants, the healer saved the life of a boy after he fell into a cooking fire. They have given Sebukene an exercise book, in which he is making meticulous notes of his ancient methods.

Dr John Parker is the head of the field hospital at Kibumba ("M*A*S*H, without the helicopters," he says), which serves both Red Cross camps and others besides in the North Kivu Goma district. At a rough guess, his staff of six local doctors, himself and a surgeon serve more than 650,000 refugees, but the local hospital in Goma is also helping out. His most shocking experience was when he arrived in July and "watched the front-end loaders pick up bodies and put them in the back of the truck. On my first day here they collected 7,000 bodies from the sides of the road. There were too many to lay out, so they were thrown into mass graves. But it was those scenes that drew the world's attention to Goma." Most had died from a combination of dehydration, malnutrition, cholera and exhaustion. The crisis put the theory of the survival of the fittest into practice. He described seeing one woman, walking determinedly up a hill, her baby wound in colourful tribal robes onto her back. With people dropping dead around her, the woman, barely able to continue, opened her robe, let the baby fall, and carried on walking, without looking back.

In the intensive care unit, is the tiny being Dr Parker describes as "the world's smallest living Rwandan". The prognosis when she was born seven days ago in the camp weighing less than 2lbs was "zilch". Comelé Niyimpekeye, who grips his finger with a strength that belies her size and indicates a formidable will to live, has somehow survived where bigger, stronger beings have died. "It is a miracle she is alive," says Dr Parker, who is feeding her through a stomach tube.

One of the biggest causes of death now is road traffic. Lorries travel at high speed, and children, who like to catch ropes flying behind them or who fail to leap out of the way, are regular casualties. Jean-Marie Munyemana, 12, lost large areas of skin and flesh in one such accident. Dr Parker, in an unorthodox treatment, has treated his scalped head by allowing flies to lay eggs in it. The maggots have hatched and are eating the flesh to the bone. His skull, cleansed in this way, is now growing a bed of new flesh, to be covered by a skin graft.

In the operating theatre, local doctors graft new skin to a gunshot wound on the leg of a young man, a victim of a shooting in nearby Katale camp when Zairean troops had opened fire on refugees the week before, killing 19 and injuring 40. As a result of this incident, the atmosphere of fear in the camps has deepened, the future of the refugees in Zaire is increasingly uncertain.

Whether in the hospital or the camp, every refugee has a harrowing story. Guarding the Red Cross community health centre is Leonida Barabwiza, 62, who lost everything, even his clothes. "The soldiers came in the night. They bayoneted my three children and my two grandchildren." Again, his shock is so extreme that at times he lapses into confusion, unable to recall precisely how his family was wiped out. "My wife and I, we ran away, but they shot her as we were running. I hope to go back home, but I can't go now, because people are still being killed. I am devastated."

Another woman whose husband was killed in the fighting left Rwanda with her six children in tow. She arrived at a camp with one nine-year-old daughter alive, and the next day died herself. Dr Parker said: "We were taking the girl to the orphanage and told her to collect all her possessions. She looked around, picked up a blanket and walked."

In July, when the refugees crossed the border at a rate of 10,000 per hour, there was nothing at Kibumba apart from a few local Zaireans, whose tolerance to the sudden expansion of their population has been remarkable. Now, despite the squalor, there is a rudimentary support system — thanks to the Red Cross and other aid agencies — for more than 300,000 people in the two camps. Aid agencies together are supporting about one million Rwandan refugees in Zaire alone.

Kibumba camp, with 200,000 refugees, squats at the foot of the Nyaragongo volcano, which last erupted in 1987, and which sometimes glows an apocalyptic red in the night, its burning rocks reflecting a hellish halo onto the clouds above, its lava rising at the rate of ten metres a month. Nyamurigara volcano, above the nearby Mugunga camp run by the World Vision agency with 200,000 refugees, is also active. According to a Japanese team investigating seismic activity, Nyaragongo could erupt before December next year and Nyamurigara before March. The Red Cross is already seeking out a new site for the refugees. Aid workers on their days off climb the volcano, peer over the edge if it is not too hot, and stop on their way down to commune with the placid mountain gorillas in the national park, a park which is being visibly denuded by the pressing need for firewood.

Life at Kibumba has improved. Once a ghastly place where people were dying of dysentery, cholera, malaria and other ills at the rate of 50 per 10,000 people per day, it is now a model of organisation, where mortality has fallen to one per 10,000 per day; still double the average in a stable environment in Africa, if such an environment can ever be said to exist on this war-torn continent. But even if the death rate is falling, nothing can erase the memories. And in the summer, when temperatures could hit 40C, even breathing in the sulphuric, dusty air will become a battle.

At Kahindo camp Dieudonne Oewimnr, aged 25, from Jysengny in Rwanda, is now a volunteer working with the Red Cross. He speaks slowly, still in shock: "All my family were killed," he says. "My father had three wives, many children, many cousins. I feel ill. I will recover eventually, but I feel sick now."

The distribution of maize, soya blend, oil, biscuits, beans and salt at Kahindo is a masterpiece of human resources management. It takes place in something close to a party atmosphere, the only event to relieve the otherwise unremitting boredom. From the arrival of the food in large sacks carried on aid lorries, it can take six hours to weigh and hand out the exact amounts, a minimum of 2,000 calories per person, to the long lines of refugees. At Kahindo, where every refugee is registered, most of the food can be guaranteed to reach those who need it. In Kibumba, where there has been no registration thanks to local red tape, the old, sick and dying on the outer edges of the camp are less certain to be fed, and Dr Parker estimates that nearly one-third of the camp's population is "vulnerable" to malnutrition and disease.

Oxfam, helped by other agencies, has organised a regular water supply in all the camps but, according to Peter Breslin, a British Red Cross nurse working among the 50,000 refugees at the north end of the Kibumba camp, sanitation is difficult and diarrhoea a problem. "We treat it with rehydration. We have no testing facilities so everything is diagnosed on symptoms alone," he says.

The international relief effort for the Rwandans was threatened last month when some charities said they might pull out because of looting and terrorism by Hutu militias, holding sway in some camps. But the Red Cross is not among those organisations who might leave. "We will stay as long as the people are there, as long as we are needed, as long as we have the money," said one Red Cross worker. "Even when the other organisations pull out, we will still be here." The British public and Government have already given several million in response to the Red Cross Rwandan appeal launched in April, but huge amounts of money are still needed, and already aid workers are speaking of "donor fatigue".

Around the edge of the camp several organisations have set up their tents. There is the orphanage run by the Irish charity Goal, the hospital run by the charismatic Liverpool-born Dr Parker, and the bizarre outposts of organisations such as Operation Blessing, an American evangelical mission which believes in the power of prayer to help the refugees. From the top of a hill we look down, and a smoky blanket, the fruit of the previous day's deforestation, covers the camp as the refugees prepare their breakfast from the oil, red beans and tasteless maize meal supplied to them by the World Food Programme but distributed by the Red Cross.

An average of 10,000 patients are seen weekly by Red Cross nurses and volunteers working from five dispensaries in Kibumba alone. Back at the field hospital where the operating theatre is marked by theatrical masks of comedy and tragedy, Dr Parker and his team of three nurses supplied by the International Federation of the Red Cross work with volunteers from the Zairean Red Cross to help 127 admissions per week. One of the most common operations is the repair of perforated colons, the result of dysentery.

In intensive care, Thadée Ntirugiribambe cradles his six-month-old son while his two daughters sit in attendance beside him, and his wife lies seriously ill from malaria. He pours milk down the boy's throat but most ends up on the floor. No baby bottles are available. He is desperate to return to Rwanda but says: "Some of my friends who went back have already been killed." His eyes are bleak, his fit, athletic body hunched with despair. I ask him his son's name and he has to look on the hospital records to find it. This, I discover later, is born more of hopelessness than callousness. In Hutu tribal tradition it is taboo to speak the name of a dead person. If a child is not expected to live, it is perhaps wiser, therefore, not to know its name.

This taboo has created myriad difficulties for the Red Cross orphan-tracing service in Goma, which has registered 10,000 of the 17,000 unaccompanied children in the area. Many parents back in Rwanda whose children were separated from them in the fighting believe they are dead, when in fact they are alive but lost in the camps. But because of beliefs about the dead, the parents have been reluctant to disclose the names of their missing children. This has generated an unprecedented cooperative venture between the Red Cross and Unicef, which has supplied a photographer to take pictures of the orphans. These are now being posted around Rwanda, in the hope that their parents will recognise them and come forward. So far, about 100 families have been reunited.

During one of our camp tours our guides were Red Cross nurses Carol Osborne, from Herefordshire, and Pauline Ward, from Derbyshire, who between them have experience in Malawi, Uganda, Sudan, Burma, Thailand and Somalia, and who are among five British staff in Goma. Occasionally a man or woman would block our path through the muddy byways and demand a blanket for a new-born baby, or a piece of plastic sheeting, their anger, misery, sorrow and despair trammelling their brow at the necessary refusal.

Aid workers must be more than skilful diplomats in parcelling out help. With thousands of new refugees arriving daily, a decision seen as inequitable can easily, given the underlying mood of violence and volatility, provoke a riot. Dr Parker was in his car behind an aid lorry when a child was run over and killed in an accident typical of those which occur almost daily on the potholed road beside the camp. The gathering crowd transferred their anger to him, and his life was almost certainly in danger. "It was threatening to turn nasty, when the grinning face of a Somali I had helped earlier appeared at my car window, and he commanded the crowd to disappear," says Dr Parker. "I've not seen him since."

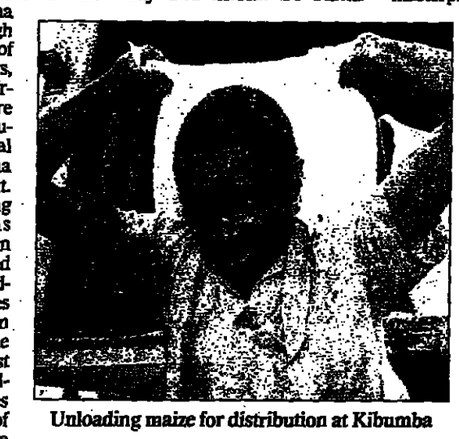
The doctor's motivation, like that of many volunteers, is complex. "I've saved several hundred lives and, if I've achieved nothing else, it would have been worth coming for that," he says. "But I think we've achieved much greater things. I didn't come here to change the world, but to help individual people. That is the strength of the Red Cross. Henry Dunant [founder of the Red Cross] did not go in after the battle of Solferino to stop the war, but to help the people dying after the battle."

Next Sunday, Christmas Day, there will be no tinsel, turkeys or mince pies. Perhaps a dozen or so babies will be born in straw shacks, surrounded by the odd goat or cow, and unimaginable extremes of poverty. But there will be rejoicing, judging by the mood on a normal Sunday, when the camp's fervently Christian population celebrates wildly, with Roman Catholics, Protestants and evangelicals processing to meetings on the tops of seven or eight volcanic mounds, on which they sing and dance, an unconscious parody of Rome. Christmas here will surely be almost as close to the original as it is possible to come in the 20th century, but none can say how long these refugees must wait for salvation.

Cover and feature photographs by CHRIS HARRIS

Cover shows Ruth Gledhill accompanied by Red Cross worker Raphael interviewing schoolteacher Sylvestre Gafrere at the Kibumba camp.

● *Ruth Gledhill and Chris Harris flew to Nairobi courtesy of British Airways, whose appeal to long-haul passengers, "Change for Good", run jointly with Unicef, has raised nearly £1 million, including £134,000 for the Rwanda refugees.*



Unloading maize for distribution at Kibumba

> "Even if the others pull out, the Red Cross will stay"



At the Kibumba camp, Dr John Porter cradles "the world's smallest living Rwandan", a girl born weighing only two pounds

RED CROSS

History of aid in wartime

1862: Henry Dunant, a Swiss philanthropist, publishes *A Memory of Solferino*, detailing his traumatic experiences as an observer at the Battle of Solferino in 1859, and urges the establishment of a neutral organisation to co-ordinate relief and alleviate suffering on both sides of a battlefront.

1863, Oct: The Red Cross is established in Switzerland, its symbol being an inversion of the Swiss flag, in honour of Dunant.

1870, July 22: *The Times* publishes a letter from Robert Loyd-Lindsay VC, hero of the Crimean War, in which he proposes the creation of a Red Cross society in Britain.

Aug 4: At a meeting at Willis's Rooms, a private club in St James's, London, a Red Cross society is founded and named the British National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War. By the end of September £200,000 is raised by public subscription.

Nov 23: John McIntosh, a 19-year-old first-aid worker with the BNSA at Saarbrücken, is the first member to die on active service.

1876-1898: The BNSA sends personnel, supplies and transport to conflicts in Turkey, Serbia, Russia, Zululand, Egypt, Bulgaria, Rhodesia, Greece and Sudan.

1905, July 17: The BNSA becomes The British Red Cross Society.

1907-1909: Territorial Army reforms require the BRCS, St John Ambulance and St Andrew's Ambulance to act as a paramedical emergency organisation at the disposal of military medical services in wartime.

1909, Jan 10: Formation of the first women's Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD).

1912, Oct 20: First British Red Cross unit leaves for the war in the Balkans. Between October and May 1913, 18,358 patients from both sides are treated at BRCS field hospitals.



Henry Dunant: founder of the Red Cross

1913, Nov: Scottish branch is started.

1914, Aug 18: First BRCS commission leaves for France at the outbreak of the First World War, led by Sir Alfred Keogh.

1926, Oct: BRCS takes over the London Blood Transfusion Service, created in 1921 by Percy Lane Oliver.

1939-45. During the Second World War, the BRCS supports the emergency and medical services in Britain.

1956, Oct 27: Hungarian Uprising. BRCS organises transport and reception of refugees in Britain.

1993, Oct: 600 delegates, representing national societies throughout the world, meet in Birmingham.

1994. The BRCS launches one of its biggest appeals, and raises £8 million for relief in Rwanda.

1995, May 6-13: Red Cross Week.

May 8: International Red Cross Day (also fiftieth anniversary of VE day).

Aug 4: 125th birthday of the BRCS.





In July the only inhabitants of Kibumba were a few Zairean locals; now there are more than 300,000 people in two camps

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Ov. *William Tell*. On with the medley *I Pagliacci*, Sabre Dance, Adagio Albinoni, O my beloved Daddy *Gianni Schicchi*. The Sorcerer's Apprentice, One Fine Day Puccini, Intermezzo *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Pomp & Circumstance March No.1, Winter Four Seasons Vivaldi, Che gelida manina, Si, mi chiamano *Mimi*, O soave fanciulla *La Boheme*, Gold & Silver Waltz, Radetzky March, Bolero Ravel

Tuesday 27 December at 7.30

GRAND CLASSICAL GALA

National Symphony Orchestra Cond *David Coleman*
Tenor *Anthony Mee* Piano *Phillip Dyson*
Pro Musica Chorus · Kentish Opera Chorus
Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Artillery Band

Ov. *Fingal's Cave*, Hallelujah Chorus *Messiah*, On with the motley *I Pagliacci*, Slavonic Dance No.2, La donna e mobile *Rigoletto*, Warsaw Concerto, Polovtsian Dances, Grand March *Aida*, E lucevan le stelle *Tosca*, Soldiers' Chorus *Faust*, Bolero Ravel, Radetzky March, Nessun dorma

TCHAIKOVSKY **'1812' OVERTURE** with chorus & cannon & mortar effects

Friday 30 December at 7.30

TCHAIKOVSKY GALA CONCERT of MUSIC & DANCE

National Symphony Orchestra
Cond *David Coleman* Piano *Semyon Krachin*

Principal dancers Ballet Creations led by *Ursula Hageli & Richard Staughton*

Waltz & *Pas de deux *The Sleeping Beauty*
Piano Concerto No.1 Capriccio Italien
Suite, *Pas de deux & *Dance of the Little Swans *Swan Lake* Suite *The Nutcracker*
with *Dance of the Miriltons
'1812' OVERTURE with cannon & mortar effects

*Items to be danced

Saturday 31 December at 7.30

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National Symphony Orchestra Cond David Coleman
Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir
Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Artillery Band

WITH FOUR GREAT OPERA STARS
Soprano *Susan McCulloch* Mezzo *Yvonne Howard*
Tenor *Anthony Mee* Baritone *Adrian Clarke*

Ov. *Hansel & Gretel*, Che gelida manina *La Boheme*, Toreador's Song, Habanera *Carmen*, One fine day, Va pensiero *Nabucco*, Flower Duet *Lakme*, Meditation *Thais*, Softly awakes my heart *Samson & Delilah*, Anvil Chorus *Il Trovatore*, Brindisi *Traviata*, Grand March *Aida*, Largo al factotum *Barber of Seville*, Duet *Pearlfishers*, Intermezzo *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Quartet *Rigoletto*, *La Wally*, Nessun dorma & Final scene *Turandot*

Sunday 1 January at 7.30

VIENNESE NEW YEAR GALA

National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor *David Coleman*
Soprano *Kate Flowers* *Alasdair Malloy*

STRAUSS BALLET COMPANY
Ov. *Die Fledermaus*, Artist's Life*, Cuckoo Polka, Pizzicato Polka, Emperor Waltz, Chinese Galop, Tritsch Tratsch Polka*, The Sleigh Ride, Explosions Polka, Radetzky March, Persian March*, Roses from the South, Anvil Polka, Champagne Polka, Blue Danube*. Vilja *(The Merry Widow)*, Don't be Cross, Vienna City of my dreams, Snowball Polka, Memories of Covent Garden, Homage to Queen Victoria*

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Sun 18 Dec 2.00 — **NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCH** Jacob A Noyes of Minstrels; Vaughan Williams Norfolk Rhapsody; Mussorgsky/Ravel Khovshina A Night on the Bare Mountain; Camilleri Molto Suite; Tchaikovsky Andante Cantabile; Malcolm Arnold Peterloo. £8, £5, £4 *NCO*

Sun 18 Dec 7.45 — **NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA** Colin Matters (cond) Programme includes Berlioz Overture, Roman Carnival; Faure Pavane; Stravinsky Suite, The Firebird (1919) £10, £7.50, £5 *National Children's Orchestra*

Mon 19 Dec 7.45 — **STONELEIGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA** Adrian Brown (cond) Karl Pendlebury (pno) Bernstein Overture, Candide; Gershwin Piano Concerto; Bruckner Symphony No.4 (Romantic) £7.50, £5 (conc £4.50, £3.50) *SYO*

Tue 20 Dec 7.45 — **CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE** City of London Choir, Hilary Davan Wetton (cond) Jane Watts (piano/organ) £12, £10, £8.50, £6.50 *City of London Choir*

Wed 21 Dec 7.00 — **THE SNOW QUEEN** with Jane's Minstrels, Roger Montgomery (cond). Professional performers work alongside children in this multi-layered version of the well-loved fairytale. £12.50, £10.50, £9.50, £6.50 *PLG*

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Fri 23 Dec 7.45 — **CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE** City of London Choir, David Gibson (cond) Jane Watts (piano/organ) £12, £10, £8.50, £6.50 *City of London Choir*

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The Daily Telegraph

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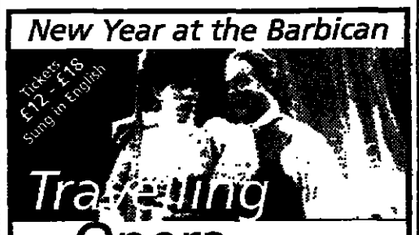
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Concrete evidence of public distaste

WEEK IN THE ARTS



RICHARD MORRISON

Few blood sports appeal to the British more than the invigorating pastime of Putting the Boot into Architects. It is a game that anybody can play, from the Prince of Wales down to the humblest journalist. Come to think of it, I've never met a humble journalist. But you catch my drift.

We hate architects because we believe them to be rich, pretentious, pompous, arrogant knowalls who live in 17th-century Oxfordshire manor houses while inflicting ghastly buildings that don't work on people who are powerless to oppose them. That, of course, is a monstrously unfair generalisation. Some architects live in Wiltshire. But when we look at what has happened to our cities since 1960 we get angry, and the anger has to be directed at somebody. Politicians are too adept at pinning the blame for architectural disasters on "the previous lot". Civil servants are "only obeying orders". So it has to be architects.

This autumn's main target was the Iraqi-born architect Zaha Hadid, who won the competition to design Cardiff's new opera house with a bizarre, but undoubtedly original, see-through zig-zag effort. Or at least, she thought she had won. Then John Redwood, the Welsh Secretary, intervened.

The "goodwill of the people" was vital to the building of the opera house, he declared grandly — and the whole affair was thrown into confusion. Strange that public goodwill is deemed necessary in order to build an opera house but not, it seems, to govern a country.

The reactionary wing of the Welsh press was already in Outrage Mode. After all, Ms Hadid is young, female, and has a funny foreign name. It was quickly pointed out that only one of her major designs has ever been built. That was a glass fire-station in a small German town — through the walls of which (it was alleged) rugged Teutonic firemen could be viewed starkers in the showers.

This thought caused great anguish in Wales. What if Dame Gwyneth Jones could be observed taking a well-deserved bubble-bath after thundering through *Götterdämmerung*? The image sent palpitations through every opera-lover. Now the decision on who builds Cardiff's opera house has been put off until next year.

Meanwhile, the architect hounders have another target in their sights: a much bigger name than the glass-loving Ms Hadid. It is none other than Sir Denys Lasdun, doughty modernist architect of Britain's most notorious concrete bunker: the Royal National Theatre.

In June, Richard Eyre, the National's boss, announced his plan to remove the concrete walkway connecting the theatre with Waterloo Bridge. On the same day, by a strange coincidence, Peter Brooke (then Heritage Secretary) announced that the theatre was to be Grade II* listed.

Thus were the battle-lines drawn. On the one hand were those who detested the National as the nadir of Brutalism: unwelcoming, perversely anti-glamorous, and a nightmare to run. They supported Eyre's determination to trim its gloomy concrete petticoats. They cheered as Eyre's new architects, Stanton Williams, irreverently rubbished Sir Denys's masterpiece. "The problem of the theatre is, where is the front door?" sneered one whippersnapper.

On the other hand were those who stoutly defended Lasdun's work. Not Brutalist but "bracing", they said. And they supported his right as an "important architect" to have his work preserved intact for ever. This week Lord Annan, in a letter to *The Times*, claimed that demolishing the walkway would be "like removing the lower jaw of someone's face."

Some jaw. Some face.

Then Sir Denys himself, who turned 80 this year, leapt to his pen. These plans, he wrote this week, "are little short of acts of vandalism". He declared his theatre to be "a public building of national importance and with an international reputation". Well, yes, Sir Den. The question is, reputation for what?

On Thursday I picked my way through the shivering kids in their filthy quilts, to whom the South Bank's concrete underpasses are home. It isn't easy to care about architecture when you see that sort of misery on the very doorstep of the building under consideration. Nevertheless I walked round the theatre, trying to decide whether demolishing the walkway would improve it. On balance, I think that the less of it there is, the better.

But now far more distinguished voices than mine are being raised. English Heritage is debating the matter. Even more frightening, so is Lambeth Council. Meanwhile, Lasdun wants a public inquiry.

That is a good idea, because it would focus attention on *the* vital architectural question. Which is: how far can the designer of a great public building project expect ordinary people to tolerate whims that they don't understand, don't like, and suspect won't work?

The question has an added urgency. When the National Lottery money starts flowing, some vast building projects will be bankrolled by you, me, and the other ten million mugs who pick the wrong numbers every Saturday. It is important that we have the debate about aesthetic values now, rather than when a dozen more hate-objects have been built.

That won't stop us from abusing architects. But at least they won't be able to shout back, from their Oxfordshire manor houses: "You never told us what you wanted."

David Robinson finds Ann Miller, Hollywood dancing queen, as charming and lively as ever

Seventy years on the hoof

THE KOBAL COLLECTION



All-American girl: Ann Miller claims to have the longest legs in show business

When she laughs (which is most of the time), Ann Miller is instantly recognisable as the joyful, long-legged, machine-gun-style tapper partnering Fred Astaire in *Easter Parade* and Gene Kelly in *On the Town*. However, she is not altogether pleased with her latest screen appearance in *That's Entertainment III*, which is showing at the National Film Theatre throughout December and thereafter in the regions.

"When I made that picture last year, I had just eaten my way through England, and put on 20lb. And it shows. But look," — she proudly shows off her restored figure — "since the film I've taken off 25lb."

She still boasts the longest legs in show business. "It's between me and Cyd Charisse, and I think I win. We are both tall, but I also have a short body. I'm 5ft 6½in. Fred Astaire was 5ft 7in, Gene Kelly 5ft 6in, so when I danced with them, I had to wear ballet slippers. If I'd worn heels, I would have dwarfed them.

"My mother gave me dancing lessons only because I had rickets. Rickets make you knock-kneed, but ballet turns everything out again. So I did ballet, acrobatics and tap.

"Where we lived in California, there was a place called the Black Cat Café, where they had entertainers. So I dressed up in bust pads and eyelashes — I was already tall — and I told the manager I could dance and wanted to work in his café. They had amateur contests, at which the customers threw money. And I won and took up all the money.

"After that I was spotted by the owner of the Bal Tabarin night club in San Francisco. He said, 'You look very young, Miss Miller. How old are you?' So right on the spot I fibbed. 'I'm 18.' I was 13, but he put me in the show.

"Then, one night, Lucille Ball walked in with Benny Rubin, who was a talent spotter as well as a comedian, and he sent me for a test at RKO. And, of course, I had to keep on lying about my age. So for years my official birth date remained 1919, and it still appears that way in most of the reference books. In fact I was 71 years old on April 12."

She had her first speaking part at 14 in *Stage Door*, and her first screen kiss at 15 in *Radio City Revels*. She was loaned out to Columbia for Frank Capra's Oscar-winning *You Can't Take It With You*, in which she is funny and charming as an aspiring ballet dancer. Next she was the Marx Brothers' *ingénue* in *Room Service*. "I remember the first day: Groucho was very courteous; but Harpo suddenly appeared, tooted that motor-horn, dropped his trousers and chased me all over the set."

A triumphant sortie to Broadway, in the 1940 *George White Scandals*, raised her salary to $3,500 a week when she returned to Hollywood for *Too Many Girls*, directed by George Abbott (still active today at 107). She became Columbia's most profitable musical star of the 1940s.

> Harpo dropped his trousers and chased me all over the set

She talks with engaging frankness about her marital disasters. "I married three times, and each one was a Texas millionaire, which was my mistake. Texas millionaires tend to be playboys and playboys tend to drink.

"The first was the worst. He was Consolidated Steel, but he also had a steel plate in his head; and when he drank, the pressure brought on black-outs, in which he didn't know what he was doing. Finally, he threw me downstairs. I broke my back and lost my baby.

"Five months later I was making *Easter Parade* — including 'Shaking the Blues Away' — with my back in a brace. I was in terrible pain but I would have done that part if I had had both legs broken. This began my contract with MGM, which was to last 13 years.

"Oddly enough, *Easter Parade* was supposed to have starred Gene Kelly and Cyd Charisse, but both of them broke legs, so it was finally myself and Astaire. He was a perfectionist, but so am I, so we got on.

"Gene Kelly is great in a different way. *On The Town* was revolutionary in every sense: this was the first time a musical had been shot on location — we went out to the New York docks. In the 'Prehistoric Man' number I had the most expensive chorus line ever — Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Jules Munshin, Vera-Ellen and Betty Garrett."

Her anecdotes of the great musical years are inexhaustible. She remembers introducing Lucille Ball to Desi Arnaz on the set of *Too Many Girls*; launching Bob Fosse's career after spotting him in the chorus of *Kiss Me Kate*; being kidnapped by Palestinians in Israel; and how the young Judy Garland put a whoopee cushion under Irving Berlin, who did not think it funny. The formidable tycoon Louis B. Mayer proposed to her when she was under contract to Columbia, but her mother told him he was too old. "I think he was hurt. When I went to work at MGM, he would scarcely speak to me."

In 1969 she returned to Broadway to take over from Angela Lansbury in *Mame*. "The show was really due to close, and I was the sixth Mame; but I kept it going another year and a half. It's time they revived it."

The role she most covets is Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*. "I was invited to the party after the first night with Glenn Close, who was marvellous. Andrew Lloyd Webber turned to me, and said, 'How's your voice, Ann?' 'Just fine,' I said. 'Well keep it that way. You may be my next Norma Desmond.' Right in front of Glenn Close. But he never called me. Disappointing, isn't it?"

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

SARAH C. CAMERON



Profession: Actress

Age: 28

Looks: Can look younger if she wants to. She is often cast as innocents — virgins and children. She is a petite 5ft 2in, with determined eyebrows.

Current show: In *Grimm Tales* at the Young Vic, her roles range from a vulnerable but spirited Gretel to an Ugly Sister unpleasant enough to cut off her own heel with a kitchen knife.

What's she been in before? David Glass's much-praised stylish gothic *Gormenghast*, which toured nationally and ran at the Lyric, Hammersmith. Cameron took the part of Fuschia, described as a "beautiful ugly": an upper-crust nine-year-old who inhabits a huge attic. Before that *Beulah Land*, a sell-out at the ICA. She doubled as a five-year-old and a virgin-tart in the award-winning *Lipstick Tango* at the Croydon Warehouse. Television work includes *Knowing Me, Knowing You*.

Training: She trained as a sculptress. Then, inspired by Theatre de Complicite, she went to study with Jacques Lecoq in Paris.

Always an actress: She had actually wanted to act from her year dot. Her parents, who own a hotel, paid for her to have classes as a child. She appeared in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* at the Dundee Rep at the age of eight.

Who does she most want to work with now? Complicite; Berkoff; Mike Leigh, to whom she sent a fierce letter which persuaded him to meet her. More comically, French and Saunders. She also expresses a desire to work within the classical repertoire.

Role models: Kathryn Hunter, Dame Judi Dench.

On her work: "I think I'm very committed, very passionate about my work"

Surprises up her sleeve: "I box. And I like welding."

KATE BASSETT

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The Sunday Times tomorrow includes a bumper issue of The Culture, with a comprehensive, two-week guide to Christmas television, radio and satellite — and our top team of critics select the pick of the seasonal movies and programmes

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JONATHAN PRYCE in LIONEL BART'S
OLIVER!
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Extra Mats 19, 23, 29 Dec at 2.30
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NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252. Grps 071 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977.
OLIVIER Today 2.00 & 7.15, Mon 7.15 THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS by Kenneth Grahame adapted by Alan Bennett
LYTTELTON Today 2.15 & 7.30, Mon 7.30 THE CHILDREN'S HOUR Lillian Hellman
COTTESLOE Today 2.30 & 7.30, Mon 7.30 TWO WEEKS WITH THE QUEEN adapted by Mary Morris from the novel by Morris Gleitzman

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 071 405 0072 CC 071 494 4078 24hr 344 4444/497 9977 Grps 930 6123
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Evgs 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
Extra Mats 19, 21, 23, 28, 29 Dec at 3pm No Mats 20 & 27 Dec
No Performances on 24 & 25 Dec
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT.
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

OLD VIC BO 071 928 7616. Evenings 7.45. Mats Wed 2.30 Sat 4.00 & 8.00
Extra Xmas Matinee Dec 29 2.30
MAUREEN LIPMAN
JANET SUZMAN
LYNDA BELLINGHAM in
THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG
Hit Comedy by Wendy Wasserstein
Directed by Michael Blakemore
Season Extended to February 25

OPERA & BALLET

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents
Peter Wright's spectacular production
The NUTCRACKER
"Far and away the grandest Nutcracker"
The Sunday Times
"PURE GOLD"
Daily Express
GALA OPENING THIS THURSDAY
22 December to 7 January
Evenings 7.30, Matinees 2.30
LONDON COLISEUM
BOX OFFICE 071 632 8300
Ticketmaster CC 24 hrs 071 344 4444
CHILD SUPERSAVER
Mayuko Yoshida and Irek Mukhamedov Photo: Bill Cooper

WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

◪ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'** The Fats Waller musical show: an evening of stomping, tapping, exuberant song and dance.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Rd, NW6 (071-328 1000) Now previewing; opens Jan 9. Mon-Sat, 8pm: mats Sats and Dec 20, 28, 29: 4pm. No perf Dec 24. ♿

☐ **THE BOAT PLAYS:** Sumptuously staged moralities by Gil Vicente, 16th-century Portugese playwright, the newly dead board vessels bound for Hell, Purgatory or (for a few) Heaven
Gate, Prince Albert Pub, Pembridge Road, W11 (071-229 0706) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm

☐ **THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE:** Nigel Hawthorne amusing as the dilapidated Lord Ogleby but his direction prettifies and diminishes the play. Some clever supporting performances
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm: mats Sats and Dec 21 and 28, 2.30pm.

☐ **FASCINATING AIDA:** The girls are back with an evening of glamour, quick wits and sharp tongues.
Garrick, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 5pm and 8.15pm Until Jan 21.

☐ **HAMLET** Peter Hall directs Stephen Dillane's darkly humorous, self-detesting Prince, backed by excellent playing from Michael Pennington, Donald Sinden and Alan Dobie.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5085). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2pm. ♿

◪ **THE MAN OF MODE:** Etherege's wittiest comedy: sex, style and even some true love. David Westhead as Dorimant, Tim Potter as Sir Fopling Flutter. Max Stafford-Clark directs in repertoire with *The Libertine*.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745) Tonight, 7.30pm; Sat, 3.30pm. *Libertine* Sat, 7.30pm. Closed all next week.

☐ **MASKARADE:** Colourful but stiff recreation of the street theatre of Jamaica's slaves
Cochrane, Southampton Row, WC1 (071-242 7040) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats on various days 2pm. Until Jan 14

◪ **MOLLY SWEENEY.** Brian Friel directs his own superb play: Catherine Byrne, Mark Lambert and T P McKenna voice feelings to do with blindness, illusion and much more
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm Until Dec 23 ♿

◪ **MY NIGHT WITH REG:** John Sessions and David Bamber in Kevin Elyot's excellent, award-winning comedy with a dark edge. Six gay men caught up in a web of reticence and deception.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Mon-Tue, Thurs-Sat, 8pm. Wed, 6.30pm and 9.15pm, mat Sat, 4pm ♿

☐ **NEW ENGLAND.** Richard Nelson looks at the English abroad, behaving just as Americans say we do. Interesting ideas and good acting led by Angela Thorne. David Burke and Mick Ford
Pit, Barbican Centre EC2 (071-638 8891) Today-Dec 28, 7.15pm; mats today, Dec 22 and 29, 2pm. ♿

■ **OLIVER!** Lavish revival of Bart's merry musical. Low on social comment, big on tunes. Jonathan Pryce as Fagin.
Palladium, Argyll St, W1 (071-494 5020) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm ♿

◪ **A PASSIONATE WOMAN** Stephanie Cole plays a woman who'd rather sit on the roof and dream than attend her son's wedding: Ned Sherrin directs Kay Mellor's entertaining, though lightweight comedy.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

☐ **PETER PAN - THE BRITISH MUSICAL.** Ron Moody and Nicola Stapleton in a version written, composed and directed by Piers Chater-Robinson
Cambridge, Earlham St, WC2 (071-494 5080). Now previewing, 7.30pm, opens Dec 20, 7pm Until Jan 21.

◪ **THE RIVALS.** Richard Cottrell's likable production from Chichester, with Patricia Routledge's splendidly wild Mrs Malaprop like a lace-encrusted windmill
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat 3pm Until Jan 14

☐ **SLAVS!** Tony Kushner's densely packed serious comedy about the collapse of Communism. A strong cast find some passion in it but the struggle is hard, comrades
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. ♿

■ **THREE TALL WOMEN** Maggie Smith, Frances de la Tour and Anastasia Hille show how youthful high spirits petrify into grim old age. Superb performances in Albee's drama.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

■ **THE THREEPENNY OPERA** Tom Hollander sings Macheath in Kurt Weill's opera. Words by the team of writers customarily known as "Beriolt Brecht" Phyllida Lloyd directs
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (071-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

■ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS:** Patrick Barlow plays Toad and Michael Bryant is Badger the annual Christmas return to the riverbank.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252) Mon-Sat, 7.15pm: mats Wed, Sat and on Thurs Dec 29, 2pm. Until Jan 14 ♿

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Arcadia** Haymarket (071-930 8800) ☐ **Beautiful Thing** Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . ■ **Blood Brothers**. Phoenix (071-867 1044) . ■ **Buddy**. Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) ■ **Cats** New London (071-405 0072) ■ **Copacabana**: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) ■ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (071-734 8951) ◪ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (071-494 5070) ◪ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Lyric (071-494 5045) . ■ **Grease**. Dominion (071-416 6060) ◪ **An Inspector Calls**: Aldwych (071-836 6404) ■ **Les Misérables**. Palace (071-434 0909) . . ■ **Miss Saigon**: Theatre Royal (071-494 5400) ■ **The Mousetrap**. St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . ☐ **Neville's Island**: Apollo (071-494 5070) . . ☐ **On Approval**. Playhouse (071-839 4401) . ◪ **Once on This Island** Island (Royalty), (071-494 5090) ◪ **Only the Lonely**: Piccadilly (071-369 1734) . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**. Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) . . ◪ **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie** Strand (071-930 8800) . ◪ **The Queen and I**. Vaudeville (071-836 9987) . ◪ **She Loves Me** Savoy (071-836 8888) . . ◪ **The Sisters Rosensweig**. Old Vic (071-928 7616) . ■ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) ◪ **Woman in Black** Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CHASING THE DEER (PG) Cardboard drama about the Jacobite rebellion. With Brian Blessed, Jake D'Arcy, Iain Cuthbertson, director, Graham Holloway
MGM Panton Street (071-930 0631)

GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER (U) The New York City Ballet's famous production, reverently transferred to film with Macaulay Culkin as the Nutcracker Prince. Director Emile Ardolino
MGMs: Fulham Rd ♿ (071-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Rd** (071-636 6148)

◆ **THE NEVERENDING STORY III** (U) Unappealing fantasy, with Jason James Richter and a menagerie of dragons, gnomes and talking rocks from Jim Henson's Creature Shop. Director, Peter Macdonald
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (071-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (071-437 4343)

ONLY THE STRONG (15) Soldier saves his girlfriend's sister from drugs. Dull martial arts potboiler with Mark Dacascos. Director, Sheldon Lettich
MGM Trocadero ♿ (071-434 0031)

◆ **THE PAGEMASTER** (U) Macaulay Culkin in cartoon form enjoys bland adventures in the world of books. Joe Johnston, Maurice Hunt direct
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914036) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (071-792 3332)

◆ **PRINCESS CARABOO** (PG) See Critics' Choice page 2

CURRENT

ABOVE THE RIM (15) Cliché-riddled basketball movie set in Harlem. Jeff Pollock directs Duane Martin, Leon, and Tupac Shakur
Electric ♿ (071-792 2020/0332) **MGM Trocadero** ♿ (071-434 0031)

THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT (15) Two drag queens and a transsexual get stuck in the Australian outback. Joyful and vulgar romp with Terence Stamp and Hugo Weaving
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 8279) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **Screen/Baker Street** (071-935 2772)

◆ **CORRINA, CORRINA** (PG) Housemaid Whoopi Goldberg reawakens a household numbed by grief. Increasingly predictable sentimental drama, with Ray Liotta.
Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (071-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (071-437 4343)

DEAR DIARY (15) Delightful, freewheeling film journal from Italian actor-director Nanni Moretti
Curzon West End (071-369 1722) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (071-727 6705) **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

◆ **FORREST GUMP** (12) Endearing if indulgent odyssey through post-war America, ideal for baby boomers. With Tom Hanks. Director, Robert Zemeckis
Empire (0800 888911) **MGMs: Baker St** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (071-434 0031), **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (071-792 3332)

◆ **HIGHLANDER III: THE SORCERER** (15) Incoherent addition to the tiresome series about Christopher Lambert's wandering immortal
Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (437 4343)

I LOVE TROUBLE (PG) Romantic comedy thriller that fails to match its vintage Hollywood models. With Julia Roberts and Nick Nolte
Odeon Mezzanine ♿ (0426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (071-792 3332)

◆ **JUNIOR** (PG) Juvenile jokes abound as Arnold Schwarzenegger gets pregnant. With Emma Thompson and Danny DeVito. Director Ivan Reitman
Empire ♿ (0800-888 911) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (071-792 3332)

THE LAST SEDUCTION (18) Enjoyably amoral tale of sex, power and $700,000, with Linda Fiorentino as the femme fatale to end them all. Director, John Dahl.
Electric ♿ (071-792 2020) **MGM Piccadilly** (071-437 3561)

◆ **THE LION KING** (U) African lion cub almost loses his father's throne. Much hyped but charmless Disney cartoon, not meant for tiny tots
MGMs: Baker Street (071-935 9772) **Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (0426 915353) **Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (437 4343)

THE MASK (PG) Strange mask turns mild bank employee into a wisecracking demon. Inventive vehicle for rubber-faced Jim Carrey, filled with the antic spirit of 1940s cartoons
MGM Trocadero ♿ (071-434 0031) **Screen/Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (071-435 3366) **Warner** ♿ (071-437 4343)

◆ **MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN** (15): Unwieldy, overdone, unenjoyable slog through the famous story. Kenneth Branagh directs and stars with Robert De Niro and Helena Bonham Carter
Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Warner** ♿ (071-437 4343)

MY FAIR LADY (U) Resplendent restored print of the 1964 musical, with Rex Harrison, Audrey Hepburn, very familiar tunes and Edwardian finery galore. Directed by George Cukor
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279)

◆ **THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS** (PG) The King of Hallowe'en tries to take over Christmas. Technically brilliant puppet fantasy, conceived by Tim Burton, directed by Henry Selick
Barbican ♿ (071-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426-915 574) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (792 3332)

◆ **PULP FICTION** (18) Quentin Tarantino's flamboyant crime epic weaves together three tales from the LA underworld. With John Travolta, Bruce Willis, Uma Thurman and Samuel L. Jackson
Gate ♿ (071-727 4043) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Screen/Baker St** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (071-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (437 4343)

THE SHADOW (12) Laboured adventures of the 1930s crimefighter, with Alec Baldwin, John Lone and Penelope Ann Miller. Director, Russell Mulcahy
Warner ♿ (071-437 4343)

◆ **SPEED** (15) Enjoyable package of thrills, with Keanu Reeves as the SWAT team daredevil faced with a bomb on an LA bus. With Dennis Hopper
Odeon West End (0426 915574)

THREE COLOURS: RED (15) Kieslowski's compelling film about criss-crossing lives: a majestic climax to his trilogy. With Irene Jacob and Jean-Louis Trintignant
Chelsea (071-351 3742) **Curzon Mayfair** (071-369 1720) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **Phoenix** (081-883 2233) **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

TRIAL BY JURY (15) Will juror Joanne Whalley-Kilmer submit to Mafia pressure? Laughable courtroom drama, with Gabriel Byrne, William Hurt and Armand Assante
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (071-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (071-437 4343)

BEST VIDEOS OF THE YEAR: From timeless androgyny to widescreen western



Tilda Swinton as Orlando and Quentin Crisp in full sail as Elizabeth I in Sally Potter's dazzling, teasing *Orlando*

■ **ORLANDO**
Electric, PG, 199
VIRGINIA Woolf's exuberant novel about a free spirit who lives for 400 years, changing sex *en route*, gets confident and imaginative treatment from Tilda Swinton and British director Sally Potter. Dazzling to the eye, teasing to the mind: a real tonic.

■ **THE BLUE KITE**
ICA Projects, PG, 1993
IF you want Chinese spectacle, go for *Farewell My Concubine* (Artificial Eye). But for subtler pleasures, Tian Zhuangzhuang's film about one family's postwar travails is the only choice. Tian's images remain calmly beautiful, though you still sense his anger as Mao's march of progress grinds parents, children, in-laws and girlfriends underfoot.

■ **LA DOLCE VITA**
Electric, 15, 1960
FELLINI'S carnival trip through modern Rome. Marcello Mastroianni relishes his part as the journalist who feels the absurdity and boredom, but cannot break free from the daily round of parties, mistresses and ambulance-chasing with the paparazzi. A movie milestone.

■ **THE FALLS**
Connoisseur, PG, 1980
NO Peter Greenaway fan should be without his three-hour catalogue of 92 people variously affected by a violent unknown event that causes sufferers to change physically, speak bizarre languages and dream of birds and water. Demanding but exhilarating; Greenaway raises no objection to using the fast-forward button or watching in segments. *The Draughtsman's Contract* (Artificial Eye) is also back on the market.

■ **LA GRANDE ILLUSION**
Art House, U, 1937
JEAN Renoir's great prison-camp drama offers an effortless blend of tragi-comic moods, escape attempts, philosophical thoughts and ironic asides about the world's ways. Pierre Fresnay and Jean Gabin head the prisoners bound together by love of France: hissable Erich von Stroheim is the Prussian camp commandant. For lighter Renoir, try *Boudou Saved by Drowning* (Artificial Eye), an anarchic pastorale from 1932.

■ **MRS DOUBTFIRE**
FoxVideo, PG, 1993
OVERLONG, and sometimes too crude, but you still have to laugh when Robin Williams's divorced dad dons latex, grey wig and sensible skirt and gets himself hired as the family's matronly housekeeper. Sally Field is the high-flying ex-wife and Pierce Brosnan the stud Mrs D loves to needle: but there is never a doubt who is the star.

■ **THE PIANO**
Entertainment, 15, 1993
JANE Campion's tale of repression and desire in mid-19th century New Zealand is a compelling example of cinema's ability to evoke through images what words can dimly suggest. A startling performance from Holly Hunter as the mute Scottish woman whose piano brings escape from the prison of her arranged marriage.

■ **SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS**
Disney, U, 1937
DISNEY'S first cartoon feature is the one essential Christmas present. Prince Charming may be a sap, but Snow White has much period charm, and the songs make you want to chirrup with joy. A film for the child in all of us.

■ **TOKYO STORY**
Artificial Eye, U, 1953
ALL new films shrivel alongside Ozu's tender, ruthlessly simple masterpiece about an ageing couple's disillusioning visit to their family in Tokyo. Full of perceptions about post-war Japan, but the fears, dreams and vices of Ozu's characters are universal.

■ **UNFORGIVEN**
Warner, 15, 1993
CLINT Eastwood's reflective western about a mellowed gunman forced to resurrect his lethal skills. Previously available with the image cropped, though you need the new "widescreen" video to appreciate the full splendours.

GEOFF BROWN

Right price, wrong product

Midi hi-fi systems look like value for money, but too few deliver what they promise

FUTURE VISIONS

Whether it is the long evenings or incipient Christmas bonuses that make people feel the need of a new hi-fi I do not know, but I am always being asked for my recommendations at this time of year.

I am rather chary of this. Bad sound is easy enough to nail, but whatever the pundits pretend, good sound has so many shades and variations that taste is a major factor. There is never any substitute for listening for yourself. Worse still, I know that some innocents are going to be decoyed aside, like Pinocchio on his way to school, by the lure of the High Street windows and the midi systems therein.

I can sympathise. Putting together a system of separate components can seem daunting, with visions of cables tangling like Gothic foliage. These neat black boxes look so much simpler, unifying all the sound sources you could want — CD player, radio tuner, a double cassette deck, a "graphic equaliser", perhaps even a record player — in a sleekly designed central stack with size-matched speakers and hardly a cable in sight. A remote control rounds off the bumper bundle — and for a bargain price, too. As for the sound — well, it will do. But look again.

The system market is immensely profitable, fiercely competitive and driven by price rather than quality. Consequently even the biggest names are liable not so much to cut corners on their midi models as to slash them. In cheap systems, the speakers are little more than "cornflake boxes" with a unit cost of pennies rather than pounds. Changing them is only likely to show up the other components. Double cassette drives are extremely complex mechanically, the few good-quality ones available cost more than the average midi system. Think what the one in there must be like. The record deck, another complex mechanism, is often driven by plastic gears which produce infuriating speed variations.

That so-called "equaliser" is the most meaningless gimmick of all, a toy imitation of studio equipment, less use than an ordinary bass/treble tone control: its slider controls will swiftly get dirty and worn, degrading the sound further. Tone controls are far less necessary with modern recordings, and real hi-fi often leaves them out altogether. And when any of this bumper bundle goes wrong — which it will — you will find out how truly inconvenient an integrated system is: one part can rarely be repaired without disabling or sending away the whole thing. And it cannot be upgraded.

True, some better midi systems have been appearing lately — Aiwa's micro and mini range, for example; Technics' £300 SC-CH40; Denon's £400 CD-only package. But in the average High Street store it can be hard to tell one from another. That confident-looking lad in the brown suit will be little help. His training is thorough — but not about hi-fi. His purpose is shifting goods with optimum speed — getting you in, parted from your money, and out with the minimum time for thought. And if he can sell you systems offering a high commission, or "house" brand names with an inflated profit margin, so much the better.

Usually he will demonstrate the machine only briefly and against the noisy shop background, because it masks the poor sound; a proper demonstration would give you time to think. Most of the time he will be showing off the gimmicks. And beware the line, "I've got one of these myself".

So where can you go? The answer is to a specialist hi-fi dealer. At this point some people switch off, repelled by visions of sneering jargon merchants, esoteric technicalities and gilded price tags. That can happen, in a bad dealer's; but there are better ones. Some of them even sell midis.

MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN

After the family whirl of Christmas pantomimes, see in the New Year in the grand manner at a top West End show and gala dinner

See 1995 in with a hit

THE TIMES THE THEATRE CLUB

SEE in the New Year with a luxurious weekend in the heart of London's West End and spend New Year's Eve at a show of your choice. We have reserved special ticket allocations for London's top shows, including *Oliver!*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Grease* and *Miss Saigon*.

The weekend begins on December 30 at the four-star Mountbatten Hotel in Covent Garden, where the complimentary bottle of champagne in your room will set the tone for the weekend. After the theatre on Saturday night see in the New Year with a gala dinner at the Ad Lib restaurant in Covent Garden. Alison Jiear, currently appearing in *Grease*, will provide the cabaret with a selection of West End and Broadway hits.

The cost of this weekend is £185 per person and includes daily full English breakfast, a souvenir programme to your chosen show, all service charges and VAT. To book, telephone 0800 335588, quoting your Theatre Club membership number



Alison Jiear goes from *Grease* to seeing in the New Year with Theatre Club members — see item on the left

TAKE YOUR PICK OF THE PANTOS

CUMBERNAULD
Cumbernauld Theatre
Dec 19-23, 28-30
● THRILLS, fun and silly slapstick abound in Liam Brennan's *The Princess & The Pirate* as El Diablo, the Masked Pirate, pits his wits and his sword against the dastardly Don Esteban and his wicked wife Castanet. With a little help from the spirited and beautiful Don Maria and from the pirates Juan and Juan, it all adds up to a spectacular, colourful Christmas cracker of a show. Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normal price £6). Tel 0236 732887

DARLINGTON
Civic Theatre
January 10-11, 17-18, 24-25
● LINDA Lusardi, Stu Francis, Mickey Hutton, Nicky Kelly and Dooby Duck star in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £4.50 to £11.50). Tel 0325 486555

MANCHESTER
Contact Theatre
Dec 19-31
● WITH a wealth of funny characters, a saucepan symphony and a lovable loyal canine companion, Stuart Paterson's version of *Cinderella* takes a novel approach to this timeless fairytale. Members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £9). Tel 061-274 4400

COVENTRY
Warwick Arts Centre
Dec 21, 23, 26, 30
● JOIN Gerda as she sets off to find her friend Kay, whose heart has been frozen by the infamous Snow Queen, in *The Snow Queen*, adapted by Nona Shepphard from the story by Hans Christian Andersen. Theatre Club members can buy a family saver ticket for £18 (normally £25) for the 2.30pm performances on December 23 and 30 and the 7pm shows on December 21 and 26. Tel 0203 524524

BRACKNELL
Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park
January 3, 7
● MICHAEL Snelgrove, the author of last year's hit Christmas show *When Dinah Saw a Dinosaur*, takes you on a voyage through the world of magic, legend and folklore in *Max and the Missing Melody Mystery*. Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50). Tel 0344 484123

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
Palace Theatre Centre
Dec 26-27; Jan 4, 6
● THE Palace Theatre's Christmas production is *The Wizard of Oz*, containing all the well-known and well-loved songs, including the memorable "Over The Rainbow". Dorothy's odyssey with Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda, the Good Witch, makes for perfect family entertainment. Theatre Club members can buy full-price tickets at concessionary prices — £11 tickets for £8.75 on Dec 26 and 27; £8.75 tickets for £7.75 on Jan 4 and £9.75 tickets for £7.75 on Jan 6. Tel 0702 342564

SALISBURY
The Playhouse
Dec 19-21
● ONE of the most delightful fairytales ever written, *The Sleeping Beauty* tells the story of the beautiful Princess Briar Rose, her handsome Prince, dotty Fanny Annie — and Nuts the Monkey. Theatre Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normal price £5.50 - £8.50). Tel 0722 320333

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RECORDINGS: Three evenings with Leadbelly; Oasis on course for the Christmas No 1; D'Oyly Carte larking in the Underworld

BLUES/JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ LEADBELLY
Leadbelly's Last Sessions
Smithsonian Folkways
SFCD-40068/71★★★

IN ONE respect, and one respect only, the four discs that make up this towering collection are a failure. The original plan of the music historians Frederic Ramsey and Charles Edward Smith had been to document the whole of Huddie Ledbetter's ample repertoire of folk, gospel and blues songs; in the end, they managed to cover roughly half of the ground over the course of three evenings.

Soon afterwards touring obligations intervened, and before the recording project could be completed, Leadbelly was dead. The dream went unfulfilled. Nevertheless the 96 songs assembled here — now reissued on compact disc — remain an absorbing storehouse of American popular music, representing much more than a musicologist's dust-laden archive.

The *modus operandi* was simple but effective: in the convivial surroundings of Ramsey's apartment, and with a new-fangled tape recorder set before him, Leadbelly was encouraged to lay down all the songs he could recall, introducing many of them with anecdotes and reminiscences. The conversation, delivered in his unexpectedly gentle tones, became an integral part of the performance, comparable to Jelly Roll Morton's legendary one man show-cum-interview for the Library of Congress a decade earlier (reissued earlier this year by Rounder, but with most of the conversation, unfortunately, edited out).

The tracks are reproduced in their original running order, as Leadbelly leisurely entertains and educates his select audience. A measure of patience is required for the first disc, which consists solely of guitar-less vocals. (The first evening was an impromptu affair — Leadbelly had initially been invited to Ramsey's home to discuss the idea of making a recording and had not taken his trusty 12-string with him.) It is with the next session that he began to gather momentum. Even the uninspired songs — and there are very few of them — are driven forward by surging guitar breaks. Considering the medium, the sound quality is remarkably clear.

□ ART BLAKEY & THE JAZZ MESSENGERS
At The Jazz Corner Of The World
Blue Note CDP7-28888★★

HANK Mobley, a perennially under-rated soloist, occupied the tenor saxophone chair in the quintet for this potent two-volume New York club date from 1959. His foil, Lee Morgan, provides the trumpet fireworks, and the programme, avoiding the over-familiar standards, catches the Messengers at close to peak form.



WILLIAM GOTTLIEB/REDFERNS

Huddie Ledbetter, better known as Leadbelly, talks and sings his way through half his repertoire of blues, folk and gospel

POP ALBUMS

David Sinclair

■ GINGER BAKER TRIO
Going Back Home
Atlantic 7567-82652★★★

AFTER his involvement in the shameful Bruce Baker Moore (BBM) album earlier this year — a botched attempt to replicate the past glories of Cream — it makes a refreshing change to find drummer Ginger Baker following his artistic instincts to such pleasurable effect on *Going Back Home*, a collection of jazz instrumentals.

His new trio comprises upright bass player Charlie Haden (of Ornette Coleman's Quartet fame) and electric guitarist Bill Frisell, veteran of such celebrated fusion outfits as Naked City and Power Tools.

A gathering of heavyweight virtuosos to be sure, but Baker's Trio produces some surprisingly nimble and mellifluous results on Thelonius Monk's "Straight No Chaser" and Frisell's gorgeous, Hawaiian-style opener "Rambler". The temperature rises during Haden's more hectic "In The Moment" but without losing the sense of grace and proportion which are the hallmarks of this richly enjoyable set.

POP SINGLES

David Sinclair

■ OASIS
"Whatever"
Creation★★

IN what looks like a tactical masterstroke, the most happening band of the year, Oasis, will release "Whatever" on Monday. It is a completely new song which the group have plugged relentlessly on tour, on television and on radio for the past couple of



Oasis: timely masterstroke

weeks. Unavailable on any album, it is thus timed to make a massive impact on the all-important singles chart announced on Christmas Day.

And it is a song which has got Christmas hit stamped right through it like the brand name on a side of bacon. With a string section arrangement and rather obvious descending chord sequence borrowed from the Beatles' songbook circa "All You Need Is Love", it boasts a marvellously uplifting, singalong feel, while retaining a satisfying frisson of alternative-pop credibility. It is an obvious smash, but could it really go all the way and bag this year's coveted Christmas No 1 slot?

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ HAYDN
Sun Quartets
Hagen Quartet
DG 439 920-2 (2 discs)★★

AS THE year turns towards the solstice, Haydn's "Sun" Quartets rise again, this time in a new boxed set from the Hagen Quartet. Twenty years before his oratorio *The Creation*, Haydn said, "Let there be light!"; and there was light in the form of six new quartets, each one breaking new ground and speaking with new authority.

Their distinctiveness speaks out straight away in the assured *springing step* of the first E flat quartet as played by the Hagen, which has itself found a new confidence in the past two or three years. The players enjoy the experiments with new textures, particularly in the games of pairs of the C major quartet's first movement and within the variations of the slow movement of the D major.

The main competition in the catalogue comes from the Quatuor Mosaïques and the Lindsays. The Mosaïques play in "period" style and offer unique insights; the Lindsays are incomparable in the searching quality of their finely balanced slow movements. But the Hagens hold their own in the mainstream, offering robust, extrovert performances of intelligence and polish.

□ REVERIE
Music for Flute and Piano
Williams/O'Hagan
KLT 005 (081-659 4978)★

FLUTE-fanciers will doubtless relish finding this in their Christmas stockings. Patrick Williams and his pianist, Peter O'Hagan, have put together a programme dominated by 19th-century French flute music which, with the inclusion of one or two more substantial pieces and a little more panache in the playing, would have appealed to an even wider public, and gained itself one more star.

As it is, the character of Williams's lower-register playing comes into its own in Enesco's Cantabile and Presto, just as his ability to sustain and colour a musical argument reveals itself well in Carl Reinecke's earnest Ballade. For the rest, this is a programme of *bonne-bouches*. Benjamin Godard's *Suite de trois morceaux* note-spins its way through to a final lip-tickling and tongue-twisting Valse; Philippe Gaubert's Sonate, more impressionistic, more harmonically adventurous, receives a forthright performance; and Williams's idiomatic Gallic style of playing reaches its apotheosis in the inevitable Pan triptych of Jules Mouguet, as syrinx sports with shepherds, birds and nymphs.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ MENDELSSOHN
Violin Concertos
Takezawa/Bamberg Symphony Orchestra/Flor
RCA Victor Red Seal
09026 62512 2★★★

THERE are two Mendelssohn violin concertos on this disc: one the familiar masterpiece from the composer's last years, the other the work of the 13-year-old prodigy. Ironically, with these two works it is not the lesser piece that requires special advocacy but the greater: the E Minor has been done almost to death both on disc and in the concert hall and calls for an interpreter of real calibre to justify its programming.

Fortunately, Kyoko Takezawa is just such an artist. Her recording of the Elgar Concerto has been widely admired,



Takezawa: sweet tone

and here she brings similar qualities to bear on a rather different work. Takezawa has a notably sweet tone that immediately sets her apart from many of her peers. But there is also a muscular edge to her bowing and phrasing, ensuring that the work never subsides into sentimentality. She provides it with a firm backbone while also allowing for an air of fantasy: the result is to make the piece seem like a single breath of inspiration, which is exactly how it should sound.

Takezawa never draws attention to herself with exaggerated gestures or rubato, but there are some beautifully executed passages, such as the moment of whispered intimacy in the later stages of the first movement. Claus Peter Flor accommodates and complements all these nuances admirably. The Andante is moved along without any loss of expressive content, while the finale offers not so much the light Mendelssohnian fairy touch as a quite sinewy toughness. Here again soloist and conductor are of one mind.

The Concerto in D Minor, dating from 1822, was brought to light in the 1950s by Yehudi Menuhin, but it has been taken up again in recent years by the likes of Kremer and Mullova and is certainly an attractive work. More old-fashioned in its stylistic language (with touches of Baroque figuration), the D Minor has a youthful zest in its outer movements and an elegantly spun cantabile line in the central Andante. The piece is worth the occasional hearing and makes a pleasant change from one of the more obvious couplings, such as the Bruch.

EARLY

Stephen Pettitt

■ PALESTRINA
Missa pro defunctis/ Motets
Chanticleer
Teldec Das Alte Werk
4509-94561-2★★

THE 12-strong all-male American choir Chanticleer does not sell its Palestrina hard. Chanticleer's approach is all about sobriety and restraint, moderate dynamics, speeds that never dare to be slow. Whether or not you will warm to this record will depend on how sensual you like your Renaissance polyphony.

Perhaps Chanticleer's devout style of singing is appropriate for the *Missa pro defunctis*, which begins the disc. But its selection of ten of the composer's best motets includes settings of half a dozen texts from the *Canticum Canticorum* — the Song of Songs — which contains the most blatantly erotic poetry in the Bible. Surely something a little sexier than Chanticleer's soft-toned singing, with rather precious-sounding countertenors on the top lines, was called for here?

The acoustic suggests a smallish space, something else which is unhelpful to this music. But the choir's blend and intonation are meticulous.

□ RESONET IN LAUDIBUS: Legend of a Christmas Song
Niederaltaicher Scholaren/ Ruhland
Sony Classical Vivarte
SK 66242★★★

THIS is an ingenious and well-researched Christmas disc devoted to 22 pieces based on the ancient seasonal song "Resonet in Laudibus", also known with the German words as "Joseph liebe Joseph mein". Starting with Jacobus Gallus's basic setting, Lassus's lovely version and Praetorius's vigorous arrangement, Konrad Ruhland and his musicians plunder rare but pleasing treasures. Obscure names such as Christoph Sätzl, Wolfgang Figulus, Adam Jarzebski and Daniel Bollius, together with the Hapsburg Emperor Ferdinand III, appear in the list of contents.

The most effective works are those that, like the emperor's,

OPERETTA

John Higgins

■ OFFENBACH
Orpheus in the Underworld
D'Oyly Carte Opera Company and Orchestra/ Owen Edwards
Sony SM2K 66616 (2 CDs)★★

ORPHEUS was the D'Oyly Carte's first major foray outside Gilbert and Sullivan. It began in Bradford in the summer of 1992 as a co-production with Opera North and was later taken with considerable success into the company repertoire. Few of the original cast remain in Sony's recording, the first by



Offenbach: larky translation

the D'Oyly Carte of a non-G & S operetta, but the same spirit is there: a pacy romp, very British in Jeremy Sams's larky translation. Anyone looking for the aroma of Offenbach's Bouffes-Parisiens will find instead the atmosphere of the Players' Theatre.

It should really have been called *Eurydice in the Underworld* as Orpheus (a mellifluous David Fieldsend) scarcely gets a look in once his hit tune has been delivered on the violin. Mary Hegarty's Eurydice makes all the running — usually from one man to another — whether on Mount Olympus, in Hell or with her "shepherd" in the cornfields of Thebes. She has a pretty turn of coloratura, just occasionally a bit pinched at the top, and the whole performance is thoroughly attention-seeking. Which is just as it should be.

The suitors include Richard Suart as a most polished Jupiter, buzzing lasciviously in the Fly Duet, and Barry Patterson as a caddish Pluto. Gareth Jones is John Styx, who is always going on about his time as king of all Beotia: "I don't suppose you'd like me to tell you about it?" No.

But in truth it is an ensemble piece, frothily whipped up by John Owen Edwards. On mid-price label, *Orpheus* carries no libretto, but there is enough spoken dialogue to make the plot comprehensible — and when did anyone hear the D'Oyly Carte discussing the use of surtitles?

★ *Worth hearing*
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The annual jewellery exhibition at Hugo Barclay's gallery in Brighton features a fascinating and varied array of contemporary work

A real gem of a show

Hugo Barclay has been showing the work of glassblowers, ceramicists, woodturners and printmakers in his Brighton gallery since 1974. It is the jewellers, however, that have kept the gallery going through the hard times, and it is easy to see why at the annual jewellery exhibition taking place there now. Mr Barclay chooses the artists for their individuality, innovation and for their technical skill. All the exhibitors display influences from many sources, sieving and funnelling the information to create something new and unique.

Donna Collinson, one of the exhibitors, has travelled widely in Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, China, Russia and Egypt. Some of her rings are very simple (£52-£71); others come sitting on a chassis with four wheels that looks like Cinderella's coach. Decorated with a single stone, and sometimes flanked by crescent moons, or a cross and a flower, the rings cost between £188 and £235.

Maria Macdonald uses silver and anodised aluminium, and her work is inspired by classical architecture, from the early Greeks to Alexander "Greek" Thompson of the mid-1800s. Lobes can be embellished with Greek temples for £40; brooches cost £83. A rigid silver bangle in two tiers, joined by bands and lapisbeads is £99.

A recurrent shape in Karen Johnson's work is that of the pendulum — a solid cone, usually on a chain. Several pendulums joined together with brass-linked circles make a necklace for £141; earrings made of copper cones with chariot-like brass wheels attached are available for £40.

Lyn Miller is interested in nature and ancient civilisations, and weaves symbols from both into her jewellery. A necklace made of moons and flowers with a flaming sun in the centre is interspersed with chips of lapis lazuli, and costs £141. Rings with secret compartments are £59, brooches £80.

Nicola Morris puts a surface texture on most of her pieces to give them a satin, rather than a glossy finish. It gives them a Roman look, which is emphasised by the simple shapes. A particularly lovely necklace of silver beads, pearls and crystal chips is £165, as is another necklace made up of elongated S's (matching bracelet, £137). Earrings and rings of silver are in the £33-£37 price range.

Silver "vessels" with enamelled lids look just about the right size for keeping a genie in, and should you know of a homeless one, Kathryn Willis can provide the abode for £400. There is a matching ring in brass for £109. Indian and



Brooch, £59, by Lindsey Deans

Islamic decorations feature on some more abstract pieces, including earrings (£35-£43) and cufflinks (£36-£39).

Lindsey Deans's jewellery is influenced by natural forms and their structures. She uses casting, etching, piercing and appliqué techniques to achieve patterns and textures in silver combined with other metals. The spiralling turns of a snail's shell transform flat metal into 3D: leaves and waves undulate about the neck or through the air. A necklace is £59, earrings are £56, and a brooch is £47.

Brian Eburah works in silver and gold combined with titanium, using asymmetrical and curving shapes to convey a light, wind-tossed feel. The titanium finish turns an abstract form into a peacock's tail, a pheasant's breast, a petrol stain. Opals mark the middle of highly polished rings, brooches and earrings. Prices range from £43 to £109.

Inspired by heraldry, the trappings of royalty and the symbolism of the Catholic Church, Nicola Becci works mainly in silver and brass, using etching and oxidation processes. Many pieces are crenellated, with carved-out centres. Earrings cost about £43.

Caroline Webb's display is the most organic in the show, including rings, earrings and bracelets that look convincingly like silver rocks. Her necklaces, brooches and other earrings are surreal and humorous: there are men with pebble bodies with wings for arms, a crown for a head, wheels for a hand or a foot, or sometimes even a spoon. A large silver necklace is £210, a brooch £137, earrings £106, a bracelet £80 and the heart earrings are £57.

Pamela Rawnsley works with mixed metals: etched and inlaid steels, patinated bronze, copper and silver. Her inspiration is the calendrical markings carved on megalithic monuments that have been weathered over five thousand years. A necklace costs £163, a brooch is £71, large earrings are about £50, and the smaller ones between £23 and £38.

Largely self-taught, Lesley Strickland has gone on to invent many new fabricating techniques in the use of a cellulose acetate material. More easily manipulated than acrylic, it can be pulled and twisted into fluid forms. The work harks back to the 1920s when the new material was inventively used. A bracelet resembling horn costs £44 and another like tortoise shell is £44. Earrings of dark acetate with parallel silver lines running through them are between £26 and £44. Cufflinks are £39.

Sarah Crawford is one of two artists in the show who uses colour to devastating effect. Using dyed anodised aluminium and nylon, she cuts the material into simple shapes which she decorates with neon yellows, blues, pinks, greens and reds. Brooches resembling toothbrush heads cost £59 and earrings are £20.

The work of Paolo Navale looks straightforwardly modern at first but closer inspection reveals a recurring motif of Aztec and Inca artefacts: sacrificial knives, good luck amulets, priests' headdresses. He applies oxides to silver, which results in a rich, dense coating of colour: Bristol blue and green between emerald and verdigris, a royal purple or pale lavender. His earrings cost £32; cufflinks are £24.

Mr Barclay often gives advice over the telephone to customers who want descriptions of the latest arrivals in the gallery. He will despatch goods anywhere in the world and assures me that nothing has ever been returned, so he must have terrific descriptive powers. The jewellery show continues until Christmas Eve, but some of the works will remain on display beyond this date.

ALEXANDRA ST AUBYN

● *For further information about any of the work featured, contact: The Hugo Barclay Gallery, 7 East Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1 1HP (0273 321694). Open Monday to Saturday 10am-1pm and 2-5.30pm; Sundays 2-5.30pm.*

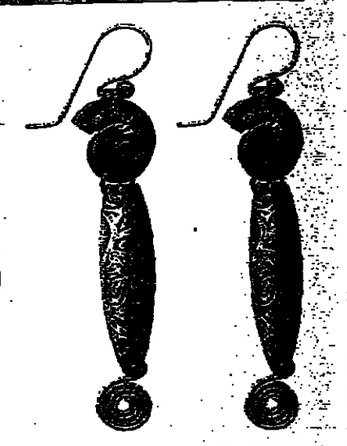
ANDREW HASSON







Silver ring with a garnet on a trolley, £259, by Donna Collinson. Above and above right: The Hugo Barclay Gallery. Right: earrings by Lindsey Deans, £83



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Put the finishing touches to Christmas

Get the festive season all wrapped up with a guide to the best decorative bargains around

Decorating is my favourite part of Christmas. I love all the glitter and candlelight and mixing the elegant with the joyously vulgar, but I must admit that I hate drearily safe tartan decorations and shop-bought "Shaker" — if you want to achieve that look, crack out the oranges and stud them with cloves, and tie cinnamon sticks together with ribbon. Don't pay for someone else's arch version of naiveté.

That said, there are two shops that will cater for all your festive decorating needs, whatever your style. Paperchase branches have everything from Indian-inspired fabric decorations in bright colours to stunning bejewelled baubles and shimmering decorations in hand-blown glass. Wreaths range from the traditional cone and fir to snow on twigs, and there are traditional plain and coloured baubles in every hue and size.

Cherubim, a tiny Aladdin's cave packed with decorations and accessories, has the lot: tree candleholders and papier-mâché reindeer, baubles, wreaths, sconces, wrapping paper and ribbon. The choice is staggering, from the darkly luscious Red Rose and Berry Wreath (£25.50) and opulent Red Velvet Apple tree decoration (£3.95), to the gold-painted Icon tree decoration (£3.95) for a Winter-Palace look.

There's great value to be found on the high street this year, too. Littlewoods has a good range of bargain decorations with gold or silver glitter stars for the top of the tree (£3.50), small hanging stars (49p), and gold apples and pears (79p). House of Fraser has a good range with a marine theme, including a lovely crab decoration for the tree (£2.99), and a sand dune candleholder (£3.99). Clip-on robins cost £1.99, and a friendly fabric Father Christmas face to hang on a child's door is £5.50. And don't forget your Father Christmas outfit from John Lewis (£39).

Thomas Goode has glorious golden animal-shaped baubles (from £20) and jewelled baubles based on those owned by Catherine the Great (£25). Graham & Green has baubles made of sand and glitter stars (£4.95), and gold or silver Sputniks (£4.50). Egyptologists and cat lovers should get stunning Egyptian cat tree decorations in "gold" or "pewter" from Fenwick (£6.25 each).

For your Christmas table, choose wine glasses with a rary look. To mix colours and styles, add Funky Stuff's cobalt blue oil burner with gold stars (£12) or Obsessions's sleek Chrome Oil Burner (£29), and shiny bauble-shaped candles (£1.95) from Jerry's Home Store or Gold Star candles (£4.95 and £6.95) from The Pier. For real decadence, put one Gold Leaf Tripod Candle from BhS in front of each place — at £4.99 they add expensive-looking glamour at a bargain price.

Candles are, of course, an essential element of Christmas, so put groups of them around the house to create atmosphere. Mix Angelic's Snowball candles (£3.50) with Pearl on Gold Leaf candles (£8.95) from John Lewis, or use a set of Paperchase steel Marine Motif candlesticks to lighten a dull corner (three sizes, from £14).

John Lewis and Paperchase are the one-stop wrapping shops. At John Lewis you'll find everything from bright gold gift boxes and sponged-effect boxes with stars to ultra-modern corrugated paper carriers in natural or slate grey. Paperchase has semi-transparent paper with gold cherubs and a plethora of ribbons including a spectacular glittery mesh that you can shape into very professional bows. Ready-made elasticated and tasselled trims for gift boxes are perfect for that small but special something.

Finally, for an understated Christmas, go to Habitat for a Twig Tree (18in, £17.50) and BhS for gold-painted pine cones (box of six £1.50). Sometimes simplicity can be as effective as embellishment.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

Crackers to go with a bang

CRACKERS are usually a sad disappointment and I long ago gave up bothering with them, but I have been persuaded to try again this year by Kate Hogan's hand-made

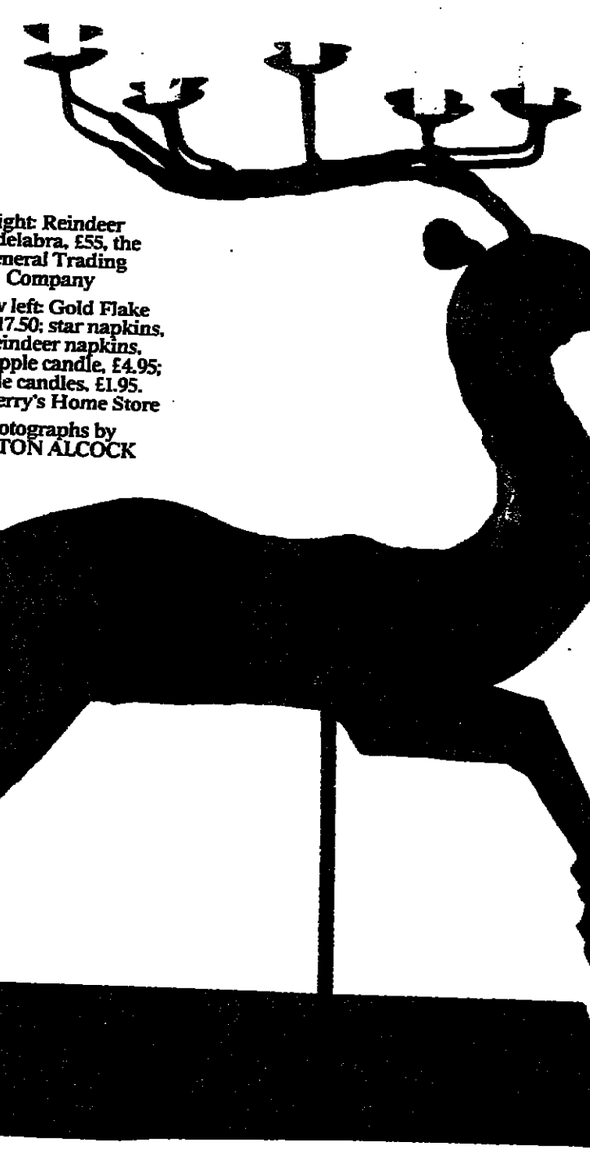


crackers from Crackers & Party Paperworks. She is offering *Times* readers two different types of cracker at prices which include postage and packing, a saving of £7, so don't miss out.

For grown-ups there's the Dinner Box (£49) with gifts including silver-plated book markers and Tiffany key-rings, costume jewellery, nickel-plated wine-bottle stoppers, luggage tags and silk scarves. In short, the perfect stocking fillers to give to friends at a dinner party or an adult Christmas dinner.

Choose the Family Box (£39) for a meal with children — gifts include traditional wooden puzzles, an amazing pull-back car, an inflatable toy and more — not a plastic ring or naff motto in sight. All crackers include a mask and a joke and are gold with a choice of sumptuous ribbon trims (Classic Red & Green, Ecclesiastical Burgundy and Silk Cream).

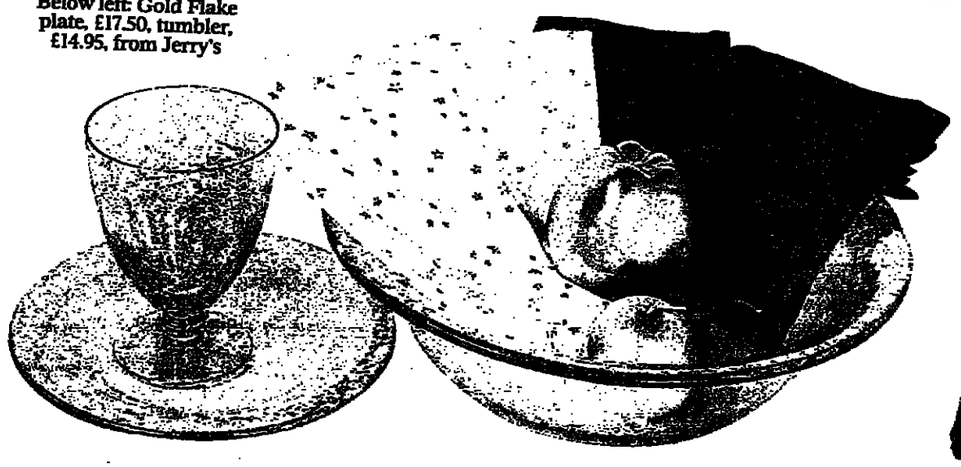
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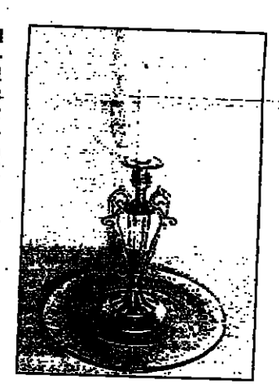
Right: Reindeer candelabra, £55, the General Trading Company

Below left: Gold Flake bowl, £17.50; star napkins, £4; reindeer napkins, £3.95; apple candle, £4.95; bauble candles, £1.95. From Jerry's Home Store

Photographs by HYLTON ALCOCK



Below left: Gold Flake plate, £17.50, tumbler, £14.95, from Jerry's



Above: Brass Lyre candlestick, £19.99, on a Gold Flake charger plate, £19.99, both from Debenhams



Above: blue glass nightlight holder with gold stars, £12, and matching oil burner, £14, from Funky Stuff

Above: tree-top star, £3.50; gold and silver stars, 49p each; and baubles with glitter swirls, 99p each. All From Littlewoods

Where to buy

- ☐ Angelic: 6 Neal Street, London WC2 and branches (071-240 2114).
- ☐ BhS: branches nationwide
- ☐ Cherubim: 514 Fulham Road, London SW6 (071-736 3977).
- ☐ Debenhams: branches nationwide.
- ☐ Fenwick: 63 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 9161).
- ☐ Funky Stuff: 637 Fulham Road, London SW6 (071-371 8788).
- ☐ Thomas Goode: 19 South Audley Street, London W1 (071-499 2823).
- ☐ The General Trading Company: 144 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-730 0411).
- ☐ Graham & Green: 4 Elgin Crescent, London W11 (071-727 4594).
- ☐ Habitat: branches nationwide.
- ☐ House of Fraser: branches nationwide.
- ☐ Jerry's Home Store: 163 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-581 0909).
- ☐ John Lewis: branches nationwide.
- ☐ Genevieve Lethu: 132 Brompton Road, London SW1 (071-581 9939).
- ☐ Littlewoods: branches nationwide.
- ☐ Obsessions: 30 Monmouth Street, London WC2 (071-379 1740).
- ☐ Paperchase: 071-580 8496 for branches.
- ☐ The Pier: 0235 821088 for branches.

Continued on Page 22

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The art of not going for a spin

Kevin Eason gets to grips with icy roads near the Arctic Circle and passes on the secrets of controlling a runaway car

My second helpless spin in the car confirmed that everything had gone wrong. But perhaps I should not have been so surprised at losing control of a car at 60mph on a rutted-ice track. As I pulled the steering wheel one way and then the other, there was no holding the Volvo as it veered from side to side and then drifted backwards with all the grace of Jayne Torvill.

My driving on ice was a shambles, but at least I was fortunate enough to do it on a test track near Rovaniemi, a small town in Finland which straddles the Arctic Circle. The nearest obstacle I could have hit with some force was a lonely pine about 400 yards away.

Thousands of drivers this winter will not be so well placed. They will discover in a millisecond that the car that seemed so tame and well-behaved all summer has turned into a bucking bronco with a surly mind of its own.

At the mildest touch of the brake pedal, the gentlest turn of the steering wheel, the family saloon will suddenly be steering its own wild course, leaving the driver with no hope but to hang on. If the driver is unlucky, he or she will be doing a Torvill and Dean impression in the path of an oncoming truck.

In Britain, the weather is so mild and uneventful for so much of the year that we expect to be able to drive in the same rough-and-ready fashion all the time. But the first heavy downpour or even light snowfall sends hundreds of motorists careering about like drunks rolling home at the end of a long night in the Dog and Ferret.

Most drivers this winter will be in front-wheel-drive cars, such as Ford Escorts, Rover 800s and Vauxhall Cavaliers. Such cars work beautifully in good conditions, with engine and gearbox tucked under the bonnet and road traction not a problem. But put a front-wheel-drive car on a slippery surface and everything changes. On acceleration, the weight distribution moves from the front to the back of the car, away from the driving wheels. The first the driver knows about this is when the front wheels spin furiously and the steering wheel tugs hard to go in its own direction.

In a rear-wheel-drive car, such as the Volvo 960, the driving wheels take the weight on acceleration, offering better traction. If the driving wheels do spin, the front pair are easier to steer.

In spite of trends, the Volvo company eschews four-wheel-drive for its vehicles, saying it isn't necessary for day-to-day driving. Even in snow?

That was Volvo's boast, and my job, to find out if that was true. The test car was a 2.5-litre 960, the same executive car used daily by thousands of drivers across Europe.

So much for the theory, now for the practice. Put any car on the slippery slides that masquerade as roads in Finland and its behaviour is only as good as the driver. I was sent off in temperatures as low as minus 6C on a 110-mile drive inside the Arctic Circle along narrow roads, some a glassy sheen of ice, others covered in snow that turned driving into something akin to wading through feathers.

I discovered that only the driver with the sensitive touch of a concert pianist gets home unscathed.

My Volvo, on its studded winter tyres, was sure and certain in its roadholding most of the time, but even a hint of over enthusiasm on the throttle pedal set the rear end wiggling. Braking was even more of an ordeal, and I had to start the process of slowing down a long time before coming to a road junction.

Those techniques were honed on Volvo's purpose-built skating rink for cars, where I was allowed to press the throttle hard and wait for the action. The driving was more spectacular, but the lesson remained the same: every action by the driver had to be smooth or the car spun its wheels and careered in the wrong direction.

So, before the bad weather starts in earnest, practise treating your car as if it were made of eggshells. Begin by trying the tips on the right.

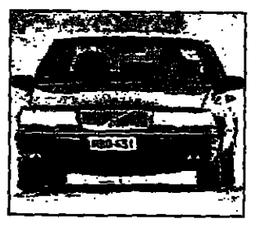
NORMAN LOMAX



VOLVO 960

THE Swedish company's latest model is the same boxy shape as before, but offers a smoother ride than the model it replaces.

Engine: new six-cylinder, 2.5-litre with 170bhp, powerful enough for relaxed cruising.



Performance: 0 to 62mph in 9.7 secs. Top speed 127mph. There are no 4x4 960s and few gadgets. The anti-lock brakes work impressively even on ice. If the wheels spin, the differential lock sends the same driving power to both rear wheels. Automatic 960s have a winter setting on the gearbox to allow starting in a high gear.

Fuel consumption: 28mpg.

Comfort: the seats are comfortable for long rides and the power steering responsive. There is a new climate control system and front-seat warmers.

Price: £19,500 to £24,500.

Great in the snow: Volvo's latest range, the 960, is available in two versions: the estate (above left) and the saloon (below)

Driving tips

- *Choose the highest gear possible to pull away. With a manual gearbox, let the clutch up slowly to feed power gently into the the engine.*
- *Hold the steering wheel lightly; keep the speed well within control, so that turns are relaxed.*
- *Do not change down gear too sharply; letting the clutch up quickly will make the car wiggle. Instead, let the engine do the braking, leaving plenty of time before junctions.*
- *Keep off the brakes where possible; sharp braking means slides. Brake early, lightly and often.*
- *Whatever you do, do it early, do it smoothly — and do it carefully.*



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It's a jungle out there, says a senior examiner for the Institute of Advanced Motorists, berating the villains of the road

DENZIL McFEELANCE



JOHN CHARMAN



Good drivers who become bad motorists

John Hamilton (above) testing Linda Francis, a would-be advanced motorist. Far left: Maureen Cooper says that most drivers can be nail-bitingly bad

"Oil pressure," John Hamilton was saying as I joined the class. Not many laughs in that, but then you don't expect many giggles at an evening of the South Eastern Group of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM), the organisation devoted to better driving standards.

His talk, however, would be taking us into areas not covered in The Highway Code. Mr Hamilton is a retired policeman who can see the comic side of the drivers-from-hell who haunt the highways and motorways.

He is also an IAM examiner with 19 years' experience and a bemused observer of drivers: *"I look at people on the roads.* Have you noticed how men pick their noses in cars? They make a work of art of it." Then there is the sunburnt elbow brigade, who slouch over the side of the door regardless of the resulting loss of leverage on the steering wheel. He didn't much like a woman he saw the other day who had a mobile phone in one hand and a cigarette in the other, which didn't leave much manual capacity for driving.

"Out there," he warns us, "it's a bloody jungle. *Standards have gone down over* the last 19 years," he says. "There are some absolute villains out there: they've had a bad day at the office; when they slam the car door shut, they become Chairman of the Board — and watch out if you get in their way.

"It's the competitive edge. I've had people race me away *at traffic lights — when I was* in a marked police car with the blue light on top."

One in three drivers, he estimates, has a dangerous attitude problem, handling the car *skilfully but totally lacking* in courtesy. "Good drivers but bad motorists," he says.

"Not you lot," he tells us. I should hope not. We are not the typical 98mph maniacs of the sort that drive up other people's exhausts. If we were, we wouldn't be sitting here listening to him.

In delivery, Mr Hamilton is rather like Frankie Howerd without the camp. He doesn't actually say, "Get your titters out," but there is the same controlled rambling, the same technique of leading us on and letting us overtake him to reach the point first.

He wanders up and down the stage, his only prop being his spectacles, which he takes off, flourishes and, on occasion, accidentally lets fly into the audience.

He also has his stock of characters: the relative who wouldn't speak to him after he *criticised the way in which she* shot out of a side road into the path of a bus; the woman whose dogs, in the car during her test, piddled over the examiner . . .

The institute has 311 examiners, all of whom are, or have been, police officers with the top driving qualifications. They carry out 12,000 tests a *year and demand standards* that are far more rigorous than the standard L-test. Most of the 10,000 who pass will have had their driving improved by coaching at their local IAM group; advanced drivers are statistically less likely to be involved in accidents and can use the IAM insurance policy.

One of Mr Hamilton's fellow examiners is Maureen Cooper, who ten years ago became the first woman appointed to the IAM in the London area. Before that, she was a *detective-constable* and among the first women to be trained in traffic control at the police college at Hendon, north London. While high-speed chases are a thing of the past for her, she says the behaviour of most drivers, particularly on motorways, is nail-bitingly frightening.

> "One in three drivers has a dangerous attitude problem"

Mr Hamilton agrees. As the *senior supervising examiner*, he spends all day conducting the institute's test. Not just in cars: he examines men and women driving double-decker buses, coaches and lorries. He tests the drivers of the huge three-man army vehicles which have such long bonnets that one of the crew has to get down at junctions and walk up front to see if the road is clear.

In the evening he addresses local IAM groups, the Women's Institute and Rotary clubs. He is not billed as a comic turn and for much of the time he isn't. He tells us about "CAT" — Concentration, Anticipation and Toleration. And minefields, not that explosive hazards are part of the institute's test. No, it was just that when Mr Hamilton was testing a soldier in Cyprus and called for a three-point turn, the soldier refused, then explained that they were driving along the Turkish border of the island and that the sides of the road were mined.

In Britain, the roads can be lethal, too. He has feared for his life at the hands of some candidates, even though they had been conscientious enough to put themselves in for the IAM exam. There was the charming old man who unfortunately had a problem about which side of the road he was on: "I had to help him with the steering." A bend in the road proved too much and they bumped on to a golf course, to the dismay of the golfers.

Maureen Cooper had a similar problem with a nervous woman driver who was approaching a main road with a central barrier. "Because it was a dual carriageway, you had to turn left — but she turned right. I didn't touch the wheel: my tone of voice was sufficient to make her stop.

"I've experienced drivers thundering down hills and not being able to find a gear. I've had to find the gear for them — and then they ask me if they've passed."

At the end of the evening, he promises, we will all be very well-behaved on our way *home . . . at first.* Then, out of sight of our fellow members, our speeds will go up and our courtesy level will go down.

Mr Hamilton was driving home once when he was overtaken by a policeman friend who was going way over the speed limit. Mr Hamilton caught him up at traffic lights and yelled across that the copper was nicked. It was a joke, but the policeman didn't speak to him for months.

JONATHAN SALE

● *Institute of Advanced Motorists, 359 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4HS (081-994 4403). Local group membership costs about £15. Fee for the test is £27, plus £10 full membership.*

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A divorcee, tall, N/S seeks gentleman, 58-68 approx to appreciate her jokes (my daughter says I'm barmy but lovable) and cooking also prove romance not pervasive of youth. Anyone for skiing! Kent. Please Reply to Box No 2697

A Exmoor New Year break for 40's active intelligent professionals. Reply to Box No 2607

ARE you genuine, caring, romantic, affluent, well-dressed and seriously want a long-term relationship. Are you also seeking what appears impossible - someone to love, laugh and share life with? I am 43, attractive, caring and an incurable romantic but practical business woman. Honest reply with photo please to Box No 2693

ARE you my very special man? 50's, caring, loving, romantic, adventurous, SOH, Mr. Wonderful, attractive, petite, sensitive. I enjoy travel, music, theatre, dancing. London home; seeking a "forever friend" + business partner. Materially self-sufficient but emotionally alone. Photo & ph no please Box 2360

ARE you an interesting n/s male, 30-60yrs, living in the E. Midlands? If so, a slim attractive, intelligent and fun-loving female (39), with all the social skills, would like to meet you, to share city-side times. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2622

ATTRACTIVE tall warm lady grad. 27 no ties. Many interests seeks intelligent man S/E London photo plse Box No 2512

ATTRACTIVE intelligent fun-loving female 39 with GSOH WLTM N/S male to share and enjoy the good things in life including theatre, travel, wining & dining. Recent photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2641

CANDLE LIT dinners. Seasonal canoodling. Lovely, enigmatic, sanguine, successful woman. Tall, slim, elegant. Seeks cultured, non-stuffy, attractive, emotionally available man. Young 40's/50's. Photo important and exchanged. London. Please Reply to Box No 2645

CHALLENGE? A homely loving petite widow seeks professional solvent sincere man with no ties. I send this challenge to all lonely men 58-64 years. I only need one special one! Write to me Kent area with photo if poss reply to Box No 2660

CHANCE may be OK, but sometimes mine needs a helping hand. This independent professional, quirky, sparky, early 50's Leo, London based but country loving is looking for a '95 & onwards relationship. Probably London/SE. 50-60 man sensitive, adaptable & not too crusty. Photo pls. Box 2696

CUDDLY attractive, effervescent, sweet-natured woman seeks a good man, aged 45-55. Matinée idols & Porsche owners need not reply. Box No 2541

JAPANESE sensitive sensual lady 40s. London based seeks intelligent successful gentleman. Photo please. All letters answered. Box No 2639

DEVASTATING Dorset based brunette tall slim n/s 30's. Seeks kind cultured intelligent hus/prof man for fun romance special friendship possibly long-term love. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2617

ETERNAL optimist would love to meet a fairly nice chap. I am a mid 30's lady recently single, attractive, professional, sociable and have a busy life but could make room for someone special. You're similar and probably share my natural reluctance to become embroiled in the singles scene including encounters! You're based in/around Hertfordshire. Children and animals would not be a problem (happy dog may be a positive asset...). Husbands, nerds, swines, bankrupts and train spotters need not apply. Photo ensures response - put pen to paper, the more reluctant you are to do so, the keener I am to hear from you! Happy Christmas! Reply Box No 2686

GORGEOUS gregarious brunette aerobics teacher, mid 30's, well travelled. Based Basingstoke/Henley Financially O.K. Enjoys boats, power or sail. Loves to eat out, drinks & smokes. Needs to be loved & spoiled. Reply with photo to Box No 2600

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IVORY TOWER: Fair lady, slim, v. attractive creative, winsome, funny, warm, successful grad/prof (47) seeks rescue by chivalrous Knight (60ish) tall, good-looking, learned and an achiever! Usual interests. Love match. Photo app. M4 / M40 /M3.Reply to Box No 2647

JANE AUSTEN reader, handsome sister and rightish, with a comfortable home and a happy disposition... has lived nearly 44 years in the world with few ties & distress or vexation. Now looking to expand her circle of friends. Interested in most civilised town & country pursuits (except grand opera). Central Scotland and East Anglia. Box No 2596

KATHARINE ALLEN. "The highly respected marriage bureaux" (The Independent), 18 Thayer St, London W1M 5LD. Tel: 071-936 3116

LADY sincere, secure with house in London looking for a similar man N/S 50-60 for love, travel, business, leisure and home life. Photo welcome. Box No 2648

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R.U. 6 ft. 40+ and need a kind loving lady to share life's joys? Helmsforth area. Please Reply to Box No 2618

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MISSING LINK - Attractive 49 year old petite bobbly lady is looking for a man with a heart to share all the good things in life. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2656

NODDING OFF in Northampton, Susannah York type 1944 model, slim, attractive, affectionate easy-going well-educated lady. Enjoys family life and golf, would like similar tall personable partner under 59, honest, good company, share and fun to take her shopping on Fifth Avenue(! (if only) and other more mundane places Box No 2661

PETITE 46 yr old independent professional woman seeks new man/men for 1996. to bring out the worst in her! Candidates must be over 6ft tall. Please send C.V and photo to Box No 2643. Area M4 Corridor.

PROFESSIONAL lady with an enthusiasm for life and a wish to continue exploring its possibilities WLTM a like-minded male (58-65) for sharing, companionship and cuddles. Interested in the arts, travel, walking, wining and dining. Home counties /London. Photo app.Reply to Box No 2619

PROFESSIONAL single woman, lives North London works in the city. N/S, 38, slim 5'8" brown hair, green eyes, WLTM taller but similar male who plays golf. Please Reply with telephone number, photo preferred to Box No 2696

RETIREMENT AGE. Lovely lady, R.C. artistic, musical, country lover, with own beautiful house and garden Kent/ London border. Seeks real gentleman of integrity, own age. Loves singing in church choir; cooking; visiting England. Please Reply to Box No 2654

WHERE is there a Euro-Commuter 56-60, beauty free, solvent professional, ready to bring back sparkle to life of Spanish Teacher Idem, suffering from acute empty nest syndrome? Aspiring pet men please abstain. Please Reply to Box No 2508 with photograph.

GENTLEMEN

ABSOLUTE ROTTER (58) seeks a pretty, well-bred, submissive girl with spirit for shallow and meaningless relationship. If you are elegant, versatile with a sense of irony do send your photograph to Box No 2649

A Exmoor New Year break for 40's active intelligent professionals. Reply to Box No 2607

A fun-loving lady 30-40 sought to share love of countryside travel wacky humour with fit Glos. man. Photo app.Box No 2583

A good-looking successful stylish London businessman early 30's looking for Miss Santa-Claus to fill an empty pair of silk stockings under the tree. Looks important, legs essential! Photo ensures reply and Xmas present.Reply to Box No 2250

BOURNEMOUTH attractive kind solvent widower 41 n/s GSOH WLTM also attractive female 29-39 for lasting relationship photo please.Box No 2592

BUSINESSMAN, divorced aged 46 with large Midlands townhouse and apartment abroad seeks attractive personable companion aged about 30 for friendship, romance? Any nationality. Please write with photograph to Box No 2618

CAMBRIDGE based doctor 34, single, attractive, successful, bored! WLTM witty, intelligent, slightly decadent, professional lady aged 28-34 to bring romance and meaning to our wise dreary existence. Photo returned.Reply to Box No 2644

CAPRICORN man 60yrs young 5'9". Successful unattached needs stylish slim feminine lady 5'-5'6". Interested in the arts. Must want to travel the world! Photo ensures reply please to Box No 2688

CHESHIRE/STAFFS. Tall, youngish 50, gentle, naturally romantic and humorous, adventurous, forever optimistic, seeks intelligent, attractive, wise lady, 38, could bring residence in "the big country". Hurry photo and brief details. to Box No 2544

CONSERVATIVE bachelor, 34, high moral standards, caring, moral, city office, Surrey home. Enjoys classical music, wining and dining, gardening, countryside, heritage. Seeks unattached lady with similar values /interests for long-term relationship. Please Reply to Box No 2630

DO you consider yourself above replying to these adverts? Me too! So how do we get together? Any suggestions from a very attractive, slim, lively lady who would like to meet a tall, dark handsome gent, 38, romantic, sensitive, sensual, successful with a great S.O.H. Together we could make it happen. Photo and replies to Box No 2686

DROP DEAD looks - that's the aim, a laughter girl with no neuroses, aged between 25 & 35. Male equivalent is 30's and as much fun! Will reply to all letters with photo. Box No 2624

EASY-GOING graduate, own business, young 35, average to good-looking. Seeks similar lady for socialising, holidays and who knows? London based. Photo if poss.to Box No 2626

FOR the lady of my dreams! American business executive of Asian background needs a kind, romantic, attractive English/European companion; one with a burning desire to love and be loved. 25-35, kind, ethical, romantic, very cosmopolitan and successful. Must enjoy travel. Let us make our dreams come true! Please write with photograph. All replies will be acknowledged. Box 3704, South East, in 46619-3704, U.S.A. 219/271 7983 Fax.

GOOD-LOOKING, good-natured, eclectic, professional man 40 divorced, based central London interested in languages, travel dancing and the arts generally. Seeks slim, attractive French, German, Italian or Spanish-speaking lady under 35 for genuine caring relationship. Please write with photo to Box 2592

INTELLIGENT, sophisticated French lady, tall 50s, enjoys the arts, travelling, classic theatre, films, antiques seeks tall classy gentleman with similar interests. Pho No and photo appreciated. Box No 2600

LONDON BASED graduate male 45, Sensitive, reliable, honest, enjoy travel seeks loving female 25 to 40. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2575

MARAGING DIRECTOR 39 very attractive, North West, WLTM, very attractive lady with style aged 25-40 for long-term relationship. Photograph please. Reply to Box No 2663

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TALL intelligent male 45 (quality creative in kit./ bedroom) seeks unpretentious adventurous female 30-42 for fun & adventure. Box No 2642

WIDOWER 56 Seeks that special Lady to start life again on rundown 30 acre farm in Normandy Box No 2675

YOU are a single woman 27-40 of African origin and W1.7M handsome, positive, successful man 41 of strong character with dry SOH from South East. Send profile/photo/phone number. Reply to Box No 2678

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Festive outings for all the family

ROGER HOWARD

MARILYN KINGWILL



Helen Braunholtz and Timothy Anderson star in a production of *The Snow Queen* (left) at the Polka Theatre, London; Duncan Knowles and Robert Marsden can be seen in *Treasure Island* at the Mermaid Theatre, London

LONDON

Tinsel trail: follow the clues on this festive quiz round old buses, trams and trains.
London Transport Museum, 39 Wellington Street, Covent Garden WC2 (071-379 6344). Until January 2 from 10am-6pm. Adults £3.95; children £2.50.

Peter Pan, the British musical: breathtaking flying sequences and music.
Cambridge Theatre, Earlham Street WC2 (071-494 5080). Until January 21. 2.30pm and 7.30pm, but times may vary. Adults and children from £8.50.

The Snow Queen: charming magical story with music.
Polka Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway, SW19 (081-543 4888). Until February 4, times vary. Adults and children £8.

A Christmas Carol: adapted by John Mortimer for the Royal Shakespeare Company.
The Barbican, Silk Street, EC2Y (071-638 8891). Until March 11 at 2pm and 7.15pm. Adults from £6; children from £3.75.

Christmas Past: see how this festival was celebrated during the past 400 years.
Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road E2 (071-739 9893). Until January 6 (not open Mondays). 10am-5pm, weekdays and Saturdays or 2pm-5pm, Sundays. Free.

Bob Wilson funfair: roundabouts; swings; and stalls.
Leicester Square W1 (0836 232748). Until January 8 (except Christmas Day). Monday to Friday noon-11.30pm; 12am-midnight on Saturday; 12am-10.30pm on Sunday. Some rides suitable for disabled people.

Christmas family events: a taste of London's past with pottery, jewellery, painting and spinning demonstrations.
Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (071-600 3699). Selected days from December 27 to January 3. Times vary. Adults £3.50; children £1.75 (family £8.50 for three children).

Music of the sea: live performance of sea shanties and sailors' songs from strolling players.
National Maritime Museum, SE10 (081-858 4422). Selected days from December 28 to January 8, 10am-5pm (Sundays from midday). Adults £4.95; children £2.95.

Treasure Island: traditional family play starring Roy Marsden.
Mermaid Theatre, Puddle Dock, EC4 (071-236 2211). Until January 14. Times vary. Adults from £13.50; children from £11.

The Little Match Girl: Hans Christian Andersen magical show for the over-sevens.
Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith W6 (081-741 0824). Until January 21. Times vary. Adults from £10; children from £5.

See Santa: grotto with televisions, animated singing Loch Ness monster; and paperback present.
Harrods, Knightsbridge SW1 (071-730 1234). Until Dec 24. Free. Photo with Santa £5.95.

AVON

Peter Pan: musical production starring Melissa Bell of *Neighbours* and former *EastEnders* star Peter Dean.
Playhouse Theatre, Weston-super-Mare (0934 627457). From December 26 to January 21. Times vary. Adults £9.75; children £8.50.

BERKSHIRE

The Secret Garden: an enchanting family musical.
Watermill Theatre, Bagnor, Newbury (0635 46044). Until January 14. 2.30pm and 7pm. Adults from £6.50; children from £5.

Mother Goose: colourful family pantomime which features all the much-loved traditional characters.
Theatre Royal, Thames Street, Windsor (0753 853888). Until Jan 14. Today, Mon-Fri and next Sat, 2.30pm, 7.30pm. Tickets from £5.

COUNTY DURHAM

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs: pantomime antics with Linda Lusardi in the starring role in this children's classic.
Darlington Civic Theatre, Parkgate, Darlington (0325 486555). Until January 20 at 2.30 and 7pm. Adults and children from £7.50.

DERBYSHIRE

Friends of Thomas the Tank Engine Christmas party: decorated trains (Thomas's friends); mince pies and sherry.
Midland Railway Centre, Butterley Station, Ripley (0773 747674). From December 28 to January 2, 10.30am-5pm. Adults £5.95 (two children free with each adult). Under-fives free.

Time Detectives: an educational adventure through time. Guess which period you're in by handling objects from the past.
Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, Terrace Road, Buxton (0298 24658). 9.30am-5.30pm (5pm Sat) every day. Not Sun and Monday. Bookings: adults £1; children 50p.

DEVON

Cinderella: traditional children's pantomime featuring magic and real horses.
Queens Theatre, Boutport Street, Barnstaple (0271 24242). Until Jan 7. Times vary. Adults from £6; children from £5.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Zoological Museum: fleas, sharks and cassowaries (large birds).
The Walter Rothschild Zoological Museum, Tring (0442 824181). Open daily (not Dec 23-26) from 10am-5pm (Mon-Sat) and 2-5pm (Sunday). Adults £2; children £1. Limited facilities for disabled people.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Gainsborough Model Railway Society Christmas open days: a fascinating collection of model railways from 1900-1950.
GMRS Clubrooms, Florence Terrace, Gainsborough (0652 654 657). Tomorrow and January 1. 1.30-5.30pm. Adults £1.30; children 70p.

NORFOLK

Christmas carol concerts: dancing, carols and music.
On the green at Thursford (0328 878477). Until December 23 at 2.30pm and 7pm. Adults and children £11.25.

Santa's Creatures: watch Santa feed his deer, collect your present and ride on the road train.
Banham Zoo, the Grove, Banham (0953 887771). Until December 24, 10am-3.30pm (weekdays), 11am-3.30pm (weekends). Adults £4.50; children £2.95. Under-fours free entry to park, but £2.50 for Santa.

OXFORDSHIRE

Puss in Boots: old-fashioned sweet-throwing panto which relies on the script and choreography rather than famous names.
The Theatre, Chipping Norton (0608 642350). Until January 14. Times vary. Adults and children from £6.50.

STAFFORDSHIRE

The Tinder Box: musical Christmas play for families, adapted from the Hans Christian Anderson tale.
New Victoria Theatre, Etruria Road, Basford, Newcastle under Lyme (0782 717962). On until December 28 and then from January 10-28. Times vary. Adults from £6.50; children from £4.50.

Ice extravaganza: with the Twelve Days of Christmas. Follow the adventures of Puddle the Hippo and Dan Lion in a trip round the world.
Dimensions Leisure Centre, Scotia Road, Burslem, Stoke on Trent (0782 832731). From December 22 to January 1. Adults from £6; children from £4.50. Facilities for disabled people (please ring first).

SUSSEX

Babes in the Wood: panto with Floella Benjamin, Gareth Hunt and Count Duckula team.
White Rock Theatre, Hastings (0424 722755). Until January 8. Times vary. Adults from £6.95; children from £6.

Holiday on ice: magic and illusions: ice show for all the family.
Brighton Centre, Kings Road, Brighton (0273 20313). Until January 29. Times vary. Adults from £9.50; children from £5.

WALES

Sleeping Beauty: in this version, Gryff, the ugly half-dragon helps a wimpy prince to save the princess.
Sherman Theatre, Senghennydd Road, Cardiff (0222 230451). Until January 7, 2pm and 7pm. Adults from £6.50; children from £4.50.

WARWICKSHIRE

George's Marvellous Medicine: just the ticket to make the medicine go down, although the results are somewhat unexpected.
Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham (021-616 1519). Until January 25. Times vary. Adults £9.50; children £6.50.

WEST MIDLANDS

Mother Goose: panto fun.
The Solihull Arts Complex, Homer Road, Solihull (021-704 6962). Until January 8 at 2.30pm and 7pm. Adults £8.50; children from £6.50. (One free ticket for every ten). Facilities for the disabled (ring first).

YORKSHIRE

Virtual Channel Tunnel drive: "drive" a shuttle locomotive through space using virtual reality headgear and handset. Part of an interactive display on the Channel Tunnel.
National Railway Museum, Leeman Road, York (0904 621261). Monday to Saturday, 10am-6pm. Sunday 11am-6pm. Adults £5.20, children £3.20 (includes museum admission).

JANE BIDDER

Where to celebrate Christmas with a carol

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL, Colmore Row (021-236 4333).
Today: 7.30pm Concert by the Birmingham Singers: **Tomorrow:** 6pm Duke of Edinburgh Award Carol Service; **19th:** 7.15pm West Midlands Police Carol Service; **20th:** 10am and 2pm Children's School Events; **21st:** 10.30am Selly Oak School Carol Service; 11.45am Railway Mission Carol Service, 7.30pm National Westminster Bank Carol Service; **22nd:** 12.30pm Christmas Music with The Cathedral Choir; **23rd:** Carols for All, 3pm Children's Carol Service; **24th:** 5.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green (0272 264876).
24th: 3.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

MARY EVANS



Join in a traditional carol service

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL, 11 The Precincts (0227 762862).
24th: Cathedral Carol Service; **25th:** 3.15pm Evensong and Carols.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL, (0228 48151)
Tomorrow: 3.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (1st Service); **20th:** 7.30pm Trinity School Carol Service; **24th:** 6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (2nd Service).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL, New Street, (0245 263660).
Today: 7.30pm Chelmsford Singers Christmas Concert.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL, 12 Abbey Street (0244 324756).
Tomorrow: 3.30pm Chester Carol Service; 6.30pm Carol Service with the Nave Choir; **24th:** 5.15pm Crib Service; **25th:** 4.15pm Choral Evensong with Christmas Carols.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL, The Royal Chantry (0243 782595).
Tomorrow: 6pm Cathedral Carol Service; **19th:** 7.30pm Bishop Luffa School Carol Service; **20th:** 7pm Chichester High School for Girls Carol Services; **23rd:** 6pm Cathedral Carol Service; **24th:** 10.45 Vigil of Music and Readings.

ELY CATHEDRAL, Chapter House, Cambridgeshire (0353 667735).
22nd: 5.30pm Evensong (including Britten's Ceremony of Carols); **24th:** 7pm Procession with Carols and Blessing of the Crib; **25th:** 3.45pm Evensong with Carols.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL, 1 St Martins East (0533 625294).
Tomorrow: 4pm Carol Service attended by the Freemasons of Leicestershire & Rutland; **20th:** 7.30pm Old Leicestrians' Carol Service; **24th:** 5.15pm Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL, Eastgate (0522 534701).
Tomorrow: 7.30pm Radio Lincolnshire Carol Service; **19th:** 2.15pm Cathedral School Carol Service; **20th:** 2.15pm Lincoln Christ's Hospital School Carol Service, 7.30pm Co-op's Evening of Carols; **24th:** 4pm Cathedral Carol Service (Mayor's Christmas Message and Bishop's Blessing).

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL, The Close (0543 250300).
20th: 7pm King Edward VI School Carol Service; **26th:** 3.30pm St Stephen's Day Carol Service with Cathedral Choir.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL, Llandaff, Cardiff (0222 564554).
Tomorrow: 6.30pm Recording of Parish Eucharist for radio broadcast on Christmas Day; **24th:** 3.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, 11.45pm Midnight Mass.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL, Cathedral Yard (061-833 2220).
Today: 6pm Cathedral Carol Service; 7.30 Family Carol Concert with Brass (Cathedral Voluntary Choir) £4.50 (2.50); **19th:** 7.30pm Selcare Carol Service (free); **23rd:** 7.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols (free); **24th:** midday Family Carols around the Tree (Free), 11.30pm Midnight Eucharist, celebrated by The Bishop of Manchester.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS, Mosley Street, Newcastle on Tyne (091-232 1939).
24th: 6pm A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, London EC1 (0705 727300).
Tomorrow: 6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, London EC4 (071-353 1301).
Tomorrow: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; **21st:** midday Fleet Street Carols.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (071-930 0089).
21st: 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols; **24th:** 6.30pm Family Carol Service; **25th:** 6.30pm Carols and Readings.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London EC2 (071-248 2705).
20th: 6.30pm Lloyds Bank Concert of Christmas Music (no tickets required); **23rd:** 1.15pm Choristers Christmas Concert; **24th:** 4pm St Paul's Cathedral Carol Service (no tickets required).

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL CHURCH, Castlehill, 1 High Street, Dundee (0382 24486).
Tomorrow: 6.30pm Carol Service.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL, Montague Close, London SE1 (071-407 370).
Tomorrow: 3pm Cathedral Carol Service; **19th:** 12.15pm, Price Waterhouse Carol Service, 4pm Friends of the Elderly Carol Service, 6.30 Turning Point Carol Service; **20th:** 12.45pm Cathedral Carol Sing-In; 7.30pm St Saviour's and St Olave's Carol Service; **21st:** 6.30pm Sea Containers Carol Service; **22nd:** midday ANZ Carol Service, 6.30pm Barclays de Zoete Wedd Carol Service.

TRURO CATHEDRAL, 21 Old Bridge Street (0872 76782).
19th: 7.30pm Radio Cornwall Carol Concert; **24th:** 7pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; 11.30pm Midnight Mass.

WELLS CATHEDRAL, Somerset (0749 674483).
24th: 3.30pm Blessing of Crib; 11.30pm Midnight Eucharist in the Nave.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY, 8 Little Cloister, London SW1 (071-222 5791).
Tomorrow: 6pm Service of Lessons and Carols in St Margaret's Church; **20th:** 1pm Department of Employment Carol Service in St Margaret's Church; **21st:** 4.15pm Carol Service for the Institution of Civil Engineers in St Margaret's Church; **24th:** 4pm Service of Lessons and Carols; **26th:** 4pm Evensong, sung by boys of Westminster Abbey Choir with Jane Lister, Britten Ceremony of Carols.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, Westminster, London SW1 (071-834 7452).
Tomorrow: 3.30pm Cathedral Carol Service.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL (0962 853137).
19th: 7.30pm Peter Symonds College Carol Service; **22nd:** 6.30pm Carol Service; **24th:** 3pm Children's Service, 5.30pm Evensong and Blessing of the Crib.

YORK MINSTER, Ogleforth (0904 647577).
Tomorrow: 7pm St Michael-le-Belfrey Church Carol Service; **24th:** Minster Carol Service — Traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

ORNA DOLAN

A club to beat the bookshop

If you are after a bargain, join the club, says **Giles Gordon**

I spent some time recently in the World Books Shop in Newman Street, off Oxford Street in London. There was a merry hum about the place, which was swarming with customers. People were smiling and chatting, whereas the atmosphere in most bookshops is solemn and silent. The range of books on display was much the same as you would find in most "popular" bookshops. Most prominent were the month's Top 10 fiction and non-fiction bestsellers.

The prices of these, mostly, net books were far below the prices for the same titles at Dillons in Oxford Street, a few hundred yards away. Alan Clark's *Diaries* were £12.99, not £20; the *Hutchinson Concise Encyclopaedia* £14.99, not £20; Frederick Forsyth's *The Fist of God* £9.99, not £15.99. The discount was never less than 25 per cent of the publisher's price, sometimes 50 per cent.

A young woman bought three books for £4, large glossy non-fiction hardbacks. She was asked for identification, and proffered her driving licence. The three books were her introductory incentive to World Books, Britain's biggest book club, part of Book Club Associates, which has a membership of more than 1.5 million.

A prominent notice reads: "We would like to thank all our members for their custom". There is no way, as I discovered, that you can attempt to buy a book without being a member or joining on the spot.

I asked a woman if she had known about the shop, or even thought it an ordinary bookshop. She asked me if I had been to the shop in Bromley, where she lives ("It's always crammed"). BCA has four shops now: the others are in Bristol and Birmingham.

She confided that she and a friend had worked out a good wheeze. They took it in turns to join the club for a year, each time buying three or four smashing books for £4, plus a couple of others in the course of the next 12 months. This is completely legal. The prospectus clearly stipulates: "Having resigned, you cannot rejoin World Books within the following six months".

Authors are pleased when a book club selects their books, as it increases their constituency. On the other hand, the clubs drive hard bargains with publishers, and the royalties paid are derisory, most authors receiving but a few hundred pounds, to be shared with the publishers (inexplicably). The clubs work on the tightest of margins and spend fortunes in advertising for members, mainly in colour magazines and periodicals.

Publishers stealthily woo the clubs, as a sale to them of a few thousand copies frequently means that they can double their print runs, thus reducing the unit price.

Booksellers, understandably, are increasingly agitated about the activities of the book clubs, and have been particularly indignant since BCA opened its shops. The recruiting brochure says that the shops are "open exclusively to our members". That is not strictly true — anyone may wander in and browse — but when I attempted to buy a book, I was politely asked for my membership card.

The booksellers' arguments against book clubs are increasingly untenable. They write to the trade press to whinge that the clubs are taking the bread from their mouths and making it harder for them to do their job. There would be more to this argument if bookshops sold more books and stocked in greater depth. Does it really matter *where* you buy the latest Delia Smith, or at what price?

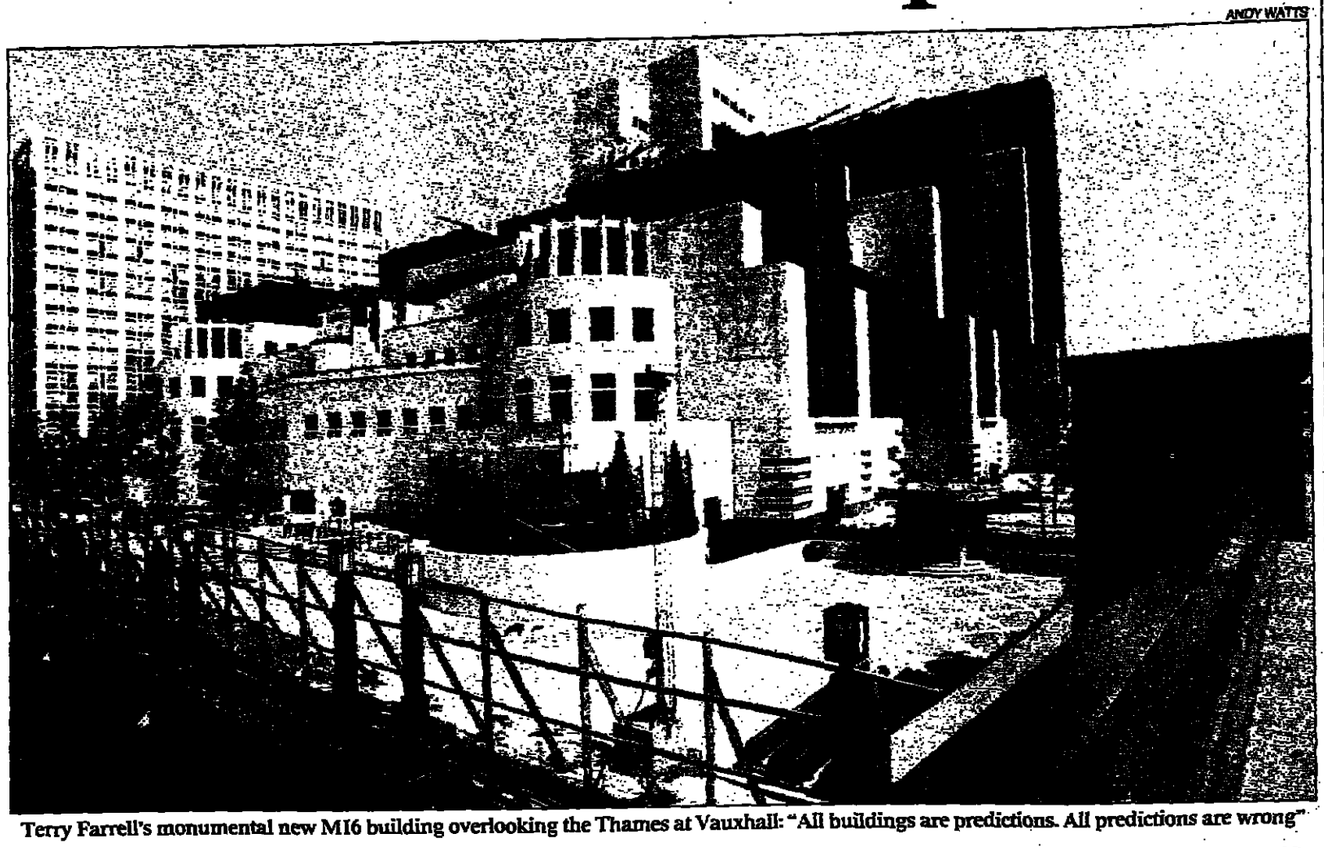
Bookshops, to be brutally frank, have failed British readers, or at least those who want to buy anything remotely out of the ordinary. I am not saying that this is their fault as there is no way any shop, even Foyles, can stock more than a tiny percentage of titles in print. But if you want a remotely unpopular book published more than five minutes ago, you are unlikely to find it on the shelves of most shops.

Like the clubs, bookshops increasingly cater to the mass market. The bookshop wars of the 1980s and early 1990s, mainly between Terry Maher of Pentos (Dillons, Hatchards) and Tim Waterstone, have led, improbably, to there being too many bookshops in this country, offering the same titles for sale and chasing too few purchasers.

Stephen Bayley enjoys a provocative debunking of the permanence of architecture

Bricks and morphosis

ANDY WATTS



Terry Farrell's monumental new MI6 building overlooking the Thames at Vauxhall: "All buildings are predictions. All predictions are wrong"

■ HOW BUILDINGS LEARN — *what happens after they are built*
By Stewart Brand
Viking, £18

Gray's house on the coast at Roquebrune muttering "life is right and the architect is wrong", a revolution in building technology reduced architects to the role of sucking pencils while deciding on what cladding to apply as fast-track contractors got on with the tricky task of construction.

> ‘Something in the DNA of architects requires them to fall out with the client’

The latest architectural deconstruction is *How Buildings Learn*, a fascinating and indefinable book by Stewart Brand, the Sausalito guru whose last essay in publishing was the epochal *Whole Earth Catalog*. *How Buildings Learn* is a hymn to entropy, a witty, heterodox book dedicated to kicking the stuffing out of the proposition that architecture is permanent and that buildings cannot adapt. Almost the first picture in the book shows the late Victorian Capehart-Crocker house being moved on crawler tractors by road to an alternative site in Raleigh, North Carolina. This image immediately undermines our assumptions about the permanence of bricks and mortar.

Other pictures and their captions mock the authoritarian imposition of paved paths which go nowhere, while real people prefer to wear a muddy track on the greensward.

This is real hippy agitprop: you can almost smell the dope. Still more pictures show Nature's victory over Industry: in 1868, Virginia City, Nevada, had the world's lagest quartz mill. Now it has disappeared and the tumbleweed has returned.

As you would expect from an author who is also the founder of the Hacker's Conference and pleased to describe himself as an "inventor", Brand's *How Buildings Learn* is not a formal history. Nor is it a how-to book. It is not really a formal anything, rather a rambling, enjoyable and provocative argument for the idea that buildings improve with age (a proposition which is perhaps more radical and unusual in the Bay Area than it is in this country).

The weakness is a mild but insistent tendency towards psychobabble and a taste for ugly neologisms, not all of them Brand's, which will make the fastidious squirm: "satisfice" as an amalgam of satisfy and suffice is typical and so, alas, is "ecopoesis", whose definition I simply could not dig. I never want to see the word "façadectomy" again, in any circumstances.

This is a very Californian book — fractal geometry is brought in to account for a generalised human aversion to pure shapes and an inclination towards clutter — but anybody who enjoys building design, or anybody who simply enjoys buildings, cannot fail to find it fascinating, if occasionally infuriating. Brand says: "All buildings are predictions. All predictions are wrong." Of course, you get his humane point, but it is hauntingly like Nietzsche's remark that every decision we make is a wrong one.

Sometimes it seems that, whatever your perspective, architecture makes people dogmatic, even if you are an amiable, ageing hippy.

For Gustave Flaubert, architects were all imbeciles because they always put the stairs in the wrong place. To Ambrose Bierce, an architect was someone who drafted a plan of your house and then planned a draft of your money. Architecture may be the second oldest profession, but it scarcely has the prestige of the first.

No other professional engagement, except perhaps with an undertaker, is as likely to end in tears as the one which involves a client and an architect. There seems to be something deep in the DNA of those called to be architects which requires them instinctively to fall out with the people who employ them, an event wittily memorialised in H. B. Cresswell's quaint 1939 epistolary novel, *The Honeywood File*.

My own experience in this area includes commissioning a design for a shower in the downstairs loo which came back as a reconstruction of the entire rear of the house including pylons, guy wires and a glazed atrium.

On a more universal level, Sir Richard Rogers's magnificent Lloyds building only won approval at design stage from the dozy old buffers of Lime Street because he (some would say disingenuously) presented them a model in comforting wood, just like their old boardroom. They were astonished to find the finished thing appearing in stainless steel.

Yet for all the follies and conceits of the profession, architects are still the best building designers we have, although in recent years there has been a consistent revisionist campaign to alter the way we see architecture and architectural history. Instead of being an account of spontaneous acts of autonomous creative genius, whether by Iktinos, William of Sens, Brunelleschi or Quinlan Terry, a tradition has developed which suggests that *real* architecture is anonymous architecture.

First off was Christopher Alexander, still a campus darling, whose influential 1964 *Notes on the Synthesis of Form* taught architects to learn from nature. Then New Yorker Bernard Rudofsky published *Architecture Without Architects* in 1965, praising pueblos and African mud huts.

In this country, Walter Segal's self-build movement gave creative authority to inhabitants rather than bossy architects. Ronald Brunskill's researches into vernacular architecture raised the status of the everyday and finally, just a few years after Le Corbusier swam to his death from Eileen

Age shall not mellow them

■ THE OLDIE ANNUAL II
Edited by Richard Ingrams
Bloomsbury, £14.99

CAN you spot an Oldie at ten paces? The cantankerous glare, the shuffling gait, the telltale zimmer frame... you would have thought 100 pages would be enough. Well, grab your bifocals: *The Oldie Annual II*, a collection of snippets from Richard Ingrams's magazine, has landed with a grumpy thud.

Anybody who finds *The Spectator* a little too young, bright and smug will find it a welcome tonic. It is an entirely frivolous and dispensable little tome that nonetheless should be welded to bedside lamps around the land. The writing is amusing and observant, a bit pompously knowing at times but that, one supposes, is the downside of hindsight.

The Oldie (the magazine and the annual) derives its appeal from the bits-and-bobs principle, where a mishmash of contributors and columns jostle for space like pensioners in a bus queue. Articles from Hugh Cudlipp, Auberon Waugh, Dervla Murphy and Miles Kington appear alongside pieces written by mere readers. Among the gems is the delightfully weary "Still With Us", a sort of living obituary. The "I Once Met" reminiscences, especially the unintended rendezvous with George Bernard Shaw, have a Wodehouse-like charm. And



Ingrams: a welcome tonic

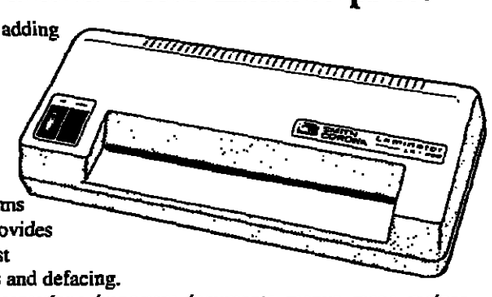
the "My First Job" slot allows Jeremy Paxman (surely an imposter here?) to describe his time as a hospital porter, replete with the trauma of seeing greying privates first thing in the morning.

Not all is so dignified. Jeffrey Barnard, who explains why Soho is one of the World's Worst Dumps ("as boring as Lanzarote, as squalid as Times Square, as porn-ridden as Amsterdam and as gay as San Francisco"), confirms his place as one of our oldest angry young men. Nobody of his age has the right to be so vitriolic, energetic and provocative.

But do we need *The Oldie*? Any of these pieces would give pleasure to those who enjoy words for their own sake. Okay, the plucky old prostate confession might never escape the niche, but the "Modern Life" series, with explanations of New Men and lip-synching, might make the pages of a trendy weekend supplement. Perish the thought.

ANJANA AHUJA

THE TIMES
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What, no Ultimate Spinach?

■ THE GREAT ROCK DISCOGRAPHY
By M. C. Strong
Canongate Press, £20

JUST the job for wiping that smirk from the face of the know-all record dealer, Martin Strong's huge tome provides exhaustive listings of the record releases of "the 1,000 most important figures in rock". No Ultimate Spinach, then, but almost everyone else, from Abba to Zappa.

The entries are sensibly arranged, with solo projects and spin-offs cross-referenced. Strong also spices up the listings with potted histories and trivia.

Of course, there are omissions, but also a peppering of misprints, the result, I suspect, of using a computer spell-checker instead of a human proofreader. For example, McGuinn, Clark & Hillman's *Return Flyte* quixotically becomes *Return Plant*.

These quibbles aside, the book, which took ten years to compile, is a worthy rival to the *Music Master* catalogue.

PETER INGHAM



Zappa: one in a thousand

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	TERRIBLE TWOS **Sarah Kennedy** *(BBC)*	£4.99	1	4
2	WRITING HOME **Alan Bennett** *(Faber)*	£17.50	2	9
3	CLOUGH: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY **Brian Clough** *(Partridge Press)*	£16.99	3	4
4	LONG WALK TO FREEDOM **Nelson Mandela** *(Little Brown)*	£20	0	1
5	MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY **Ian Botham** *(Collins Willow)*	£15.99	7	13
6	POLITICALLY CORRECT BEDTIME STORIES **James Finn Gardner** *(Souvenir Press)*	£6.99	6	2
7	DIANA: HER NEW LIFE **Andrew Morton** *(Michael O'Mara)*	£14.99	4	4
8	MARY BERRY'S ULTIMATE CAKE BOOK **Mary Berry** *(BBC)*	£16.99	5	3
9	ORIGINAL SIN **P. D. James** *(Faber)*	£14.99	0	6
10	THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS 1995 *(Guinness)*	£14.99	0	1

PAPERBACK

1	HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU **Jimmy Mulville and others** *(BBC)*	£6.99	1	4
2	BRAVO TWO ZERO **Andy McNab** *(Corgi)*	£5.99	3	14
3	MEN AT ARMS **Terry Pratchett** *(Corgi)*	£4.99	3	5
4	LIFE AND HOW TO SURVIVE IT **Robin Skynner & John Cleese** *(Mandarin)*	£5.99	7	8
5	MISS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW **Peter Høeg** *(Flamingo)*	£5.99	4	9
6	PADDY CLARKE HA HA HA **Roddy Doyle** *(Mandarin)*	£5.99	8	28
7	DECIDER **Dick Francis** *(Pan)*	£4.99	0	1
8	NIGHTMARES & DREAMSCAPES **Stephen King** *(NEL)*	£5.99	5	8
9	MRS DE WINTER **Susan Hill** *(Mandarin)*	£5.99	11	8
10	GOLDEN STRAW **Catherine Cookson** *(Corgi)*	£5.99	13	9
11	CALVIN & HOBBES: HOMICIDAL JUNGLE CAT **Bill Watterson** *(Warner)*	£7.99	6	8
12	WILD SWANS **Jung Chang** *(Flamingo)*	£7.99	12	32
13	CURSE OF MADAME "C" **Gary Larson** *(Warner)*	£5.99	15	2
14	COMPLICITY **Iain Banks** *(Abacus)*	£6.99	16	14
15	VIZ BOOK OF TOP TIPS *(John Brown)*	£3.99	18	3
16	MIND OVER MATTER **Ranulph Fiennes** *(Mandarin)*	£5.99	0	1
17	SUPERPLONK 1995 **Malcolm Gluck** *(Faber)*	£4.99	0	1
18	100 RECIPES IN NO TIME AT ALL **Anneka Rice** *(BBC)*	£4.99	9	9
19	BIRDSONG **Sebastian Faulks** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	0	22
20	THE ROBBER BRIDE **Margaret Atwood** *(Virgo)*	£5.99	14	7

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Derwent May reviews the critics

Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet newspapers

5/5 *Curator's egg*: A recent biography by Lyndall Gordon tried to rescue Charlotte Brontë from the Victorian myth that she lived a dreadful life with an awful family. Now Juliet Barker, for six years curator of the Brontë Parsonage Museum, has produced a 1,000-page book, *The Brontës*, (Weidenfeld, £25) that smashes the legend even more decisively.

But the results are very different. Whereas Gordon emphasised what a fiery, creative soul Charlotte was, Barker portrays her as "snappish, snobbish and sour... bossy and egocentric", as Isobel Armstrong put it in *The Daily Telegraph*. It is the men of the family who gain most from the new treatment — Patrick Brontë is no longer a "paranoid father" but "emerges as an heroic man", while brother Branwell is shown to have been a "serious writer" until he was "seduced and deserted by the unscrupulous Mrs Robinson". Armstrong defended Charlotte on the grounds that "part of her greatness is that she defied common sense", but she concluded that the book was "a brilliant revisionary study".

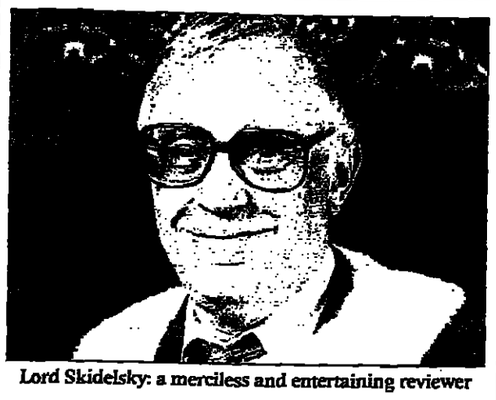
In *The Spectator*, Jane Gardam found it "a splendid account of the whole Brontë family". Branwell's portrait of his sisters still draws the biggest crowds in the National Portrait Gallery — and this book "should draw crowds, too". In *The Sunday Times*, Hermione Lee praised this "ruthlessly meticulous revisionist history", but felt that "Charlotte's own voice resists this version of her". Kate Chisholm, writing in *The Sunday Telegraph*, was least sympathetic. "It is very evident that Ms Barker does not like Charlotte," she said sternly. As for "whether the book adds anything to our understanding of those strangely haunted novels, the answer is a resounding no."

Col cms: 290

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NEW IN PAPERBACK



Lord Skidelsky: a merciless and entertaining reviewer

■ INTERESTS AND OBSESSIONS: Historical Essays
By Robert Skidelsky
Macmillan, £12.99
Pity the political biographer whose work is sent to Robert Skidelsky for review. The eminent historian — created a life peer by the Liberals, he now sits for the Conservatives but was once "a lukewarm Labour supporter" — is as merciless as he is perceptive and entertaining.

Many of the 61 sparkling pieces in this collection, on subjects ranging from Henry Sidgwick and Sidney and Beatrice Webb, through Ramsay Macdonald and Lloyd George to Macmillan and Nye Bevan, were originally published as reviews. But the joy of a Skidelsky review is that it includes a wealth of intriguing material that the book it refers to leaves out. He reveals, for example, that Ramsay Macdonald was blackmailed by a mysterious Viennese lady to whom he had written pornographic poetry, and that Harold Macmillan had Enoch Powell moved down the Cabinet table to where he couldn't see him, explaining: "I can't bear those mad eyes staring at me a moment longer."

Although he tackles historical events from Suez to the outbreak of the Second World War and political and economic ideas from Fabianism to Fascism with force, clarity and encyclopaedic knowledge, it's when he writes about individuals, the art of biography and the use of psychohistory, that Skidelsky is at his most stimulating.

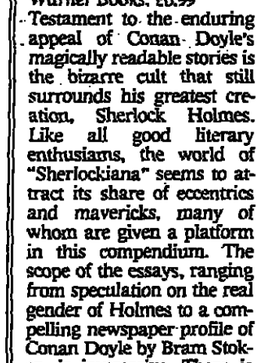


■ A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPENDIUM
Edited by Peter Haining
Warner Books, £6.99
Testament to the enduring appeal of Conan Doyle's magically readable stories is the bizarre cult that still surrounds his greatest creation, Sherlock Holmes. Like all good literary enthusiasms, the world of "Sherlockiana" seems to attract its share of eccentrics and mavericks, many of whom are given a platform in this compendium. The scope of the essays, ranging from speculation on the real gender of Holmes to a compelling newspaper profile of Conan Doyle by Bram Stoker, is impressive. There is also much that is hilarious, including a Holmes horoscope. Dotty yet harmless, this is strictly for the enthusiast.

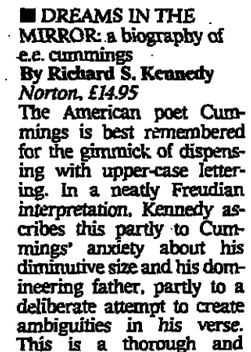
■ PRINCESS CARABOO: Her True Story
By John Wells
Pan, £4.99
In the spring of 1817 a young girl in a black turban came wandering through a village outside Bristol, silently begging for food and shelter. But this, it transpired, was no ordinary beggar but a shipwrecked princess, who became the toast of the city. A Hardyesque tale of a woman adrift, encompassing bluestocking benefactors, gypsies, foundlings, prisons and the horrors of early medicine. Wells, who co-scripted the film just out, enjoyably recounts a fascinating piece of social history.

■ DREAMS IN THE MIRROR: a biography of e.e. cummings
By Richard S. Kennedy
Norton, £14.95
The American poet Cummings is best remembered for the gimmick of dispensing with upper-case lettering. In a neatly Freudian interpretation, Kennedy ascribes this partly to Cummings' anxiety about his diminutive size and his domineering father, partly to a deliberate attempt to create ambiguities in his verse. This is a thorough and scholarly book, and the sad truth is that Cummings emerges as an arrogant sort of chap who treated family, lovers and children with a repellent chilliness.

■ GLENN GOULD **By Otto Friedrich** *Methuen, £12.99*
In his novel *The Loser* Thomas Bernhard describes how a musician loses his will to live after watching Glenn Gould play Bach's *Goldberg Variations*. The musician realises he will never be as good as Gould, the incomparable virtuoso who retired from live performance at 31, and died a recluse 19 years later. Friedrich explores Gould's precocious Canadian boyhood, his stunning early recordings for CBS, his triumphant tours and his final, anguished retreat. There is much to enjoy here, but one should turn to Bernhard for the more compelling study of the torments of genius.



■ THE MODERN BRITISH NOVEL
By Malcolm Bradbury
Penguin, £8.99
This accessible and entertaining study sets out to challenge the popular notion that the English novel is in terminal decline. Interweaving social history with literary criticism, Bradbury argues persuasively that many of the best novels of the century have been produced since the war. Though he concedes that Joyce, Virginia Woolf, Conrad and Henry James are the commanding presences of English letters, there is still much to be said for William Golding, Iris Murdoch, the Amises *et al*. A superb Christmas present for anyone interested in the past, and future, of the novel.



■ TINTIN IN THE NEW WORLD
By Frederic Tuten
Minerva, £5.99
Few writers can animate the fictional creations of others. Certainly Tuten's attempt to introduce Hergé's marvellous boy-hero to a sleazy new world of sex, death and violence fails miserably. The charm of the Tintin stories lies in their combination of didacticism and adventure. We know that Tintin is impossibly good, yet we still believe in him and are moved by his struggles. In contrast, Tuten's ironically self-aware Tintin, voraciously pursuing experience, never seems to be more than a puppet controlled by a master obsessively preoccupied with modish theories of fiction.

● *Contributors: Nicki Household, Jason Cowley, Sue Gee, Helen Davidson*

The still raw scars of Hell

The survivors of the Nazi death camps can never escape the nightmare but their strength gives us hope, says **Joe Joseph**

A BOOK. A film. Now another book, *Schindler's Legacy*, traces the lives of 75 of the Jews saved by Oskar Schindler from Hitler's camps. Why? Did not Thomas Keneally and Steven Spielberg cover the waterfront? Has not enough already been written and filmed about the Holocaust? Yes, maybe you *can* write too much about the evil of the death camps. Then again, can you ever say enough?

What prompted Elinor Brecher, a Florida journalist, to track down and interview some of the many survivors was, partly, what she saw in Spielberg's painful movie, *Schindler's List*. Also, partly, what she did not see.

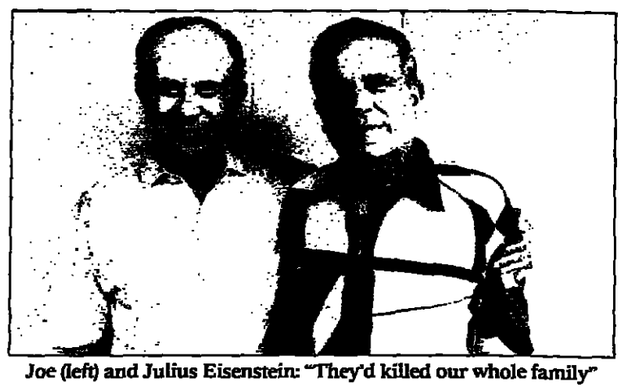
"Spielberg," she writes, "can be forgiven a certain amount of cinematic licence. There were no hangings in *Schindler's List*. No Jews dangled from iron rings in [Plaszow camp commandant] Amon Goeth's office. The dogs wore muzzles; audiences didn't see them gnawing men's genitals and women's breasts like so much hamburger. Spielberg's storm troopers refrained from swinging infants by their feet into brick walls, smashing their skulls like melons."

And then there are those people who still are not convinced that the Holocaust ever happened. *Schindler's Legacy* conveys the testimony of those who also sometimes blink disbelievingly at Hitler's attempted Final Solution — but only because such evil seems unimaginable unless you have seen and survived it yourself.

Rape and robbery victims find their lives are scarred for years, for decades, after the crime. Hardly surprising, then, that the lives of these Schindler survivors still beat to a raw rhythm 50 years old — whether it is in the way they wolf down their food, or quake when they hear German spoken, or shiver when they see a Great Dane or Alsatian, breeds of dog favoured by the Nazis.

Take Henry Slamovich, born in Poland in 1927 and now living in San Francisco, who tells Brecher of life in Plaszow: "There were hangings right away to scare people." Slamovich saw a baby grabbed by a guard from a mother's arms, swung by the feet and slammed into the pavement. "Brains spilt out all over and the mother started screaming. So the SS guard took out his gun and shot her."

■ SCHINDLER'S LEGACY
By Elinor J. Brecher
Hodder, £14.99



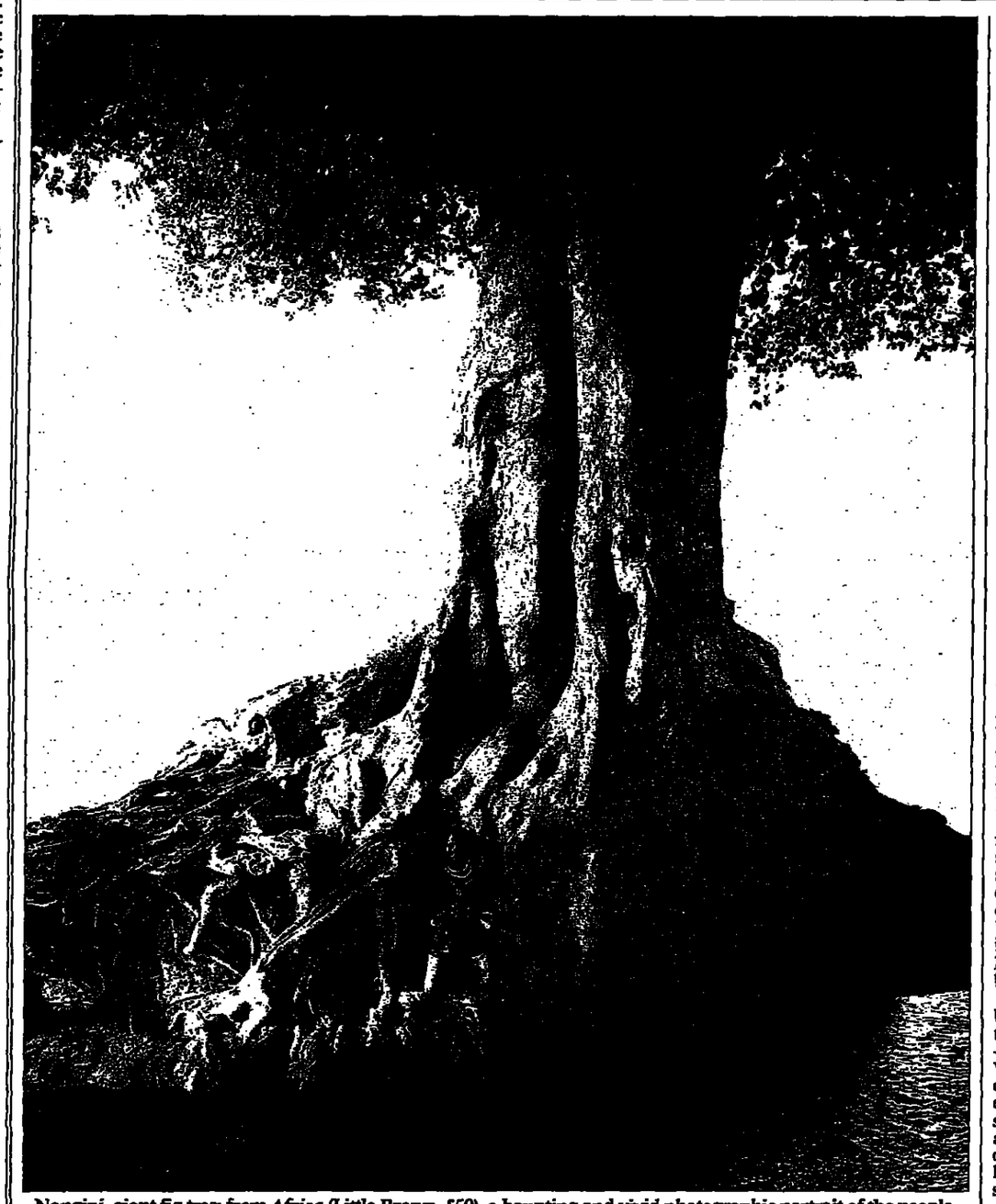
Joe (left) and Julius Eisenstein: "They'd killed our whole family"

Misery knocked on Slamovich's door again in 1978, when a teenager broke into the family home in San Francisco and shot Henry's wife, Miriam. She was alive when she reached the hospital, but then her condition crumpled. Having survived Bergen-Belsen, Miriam Slamovich died when a blood clot developed in her brain.

And there is Julius Eisenstein, who made a new life in Manhattan, and who recalls the early days at Plaszow, when he and others broke up gravel along the road to Amon Goeth's villa. "Next to me was a man doing the same thing. He took his stones away in a wheelbarrow. Goeth came down two minutes later with his dogs, looked around, and went over to this guy and said in German: 'How come he has so many stones and you don't? You don't work, huh?' Then Goeth took out his gun and shot him right on the spot. The man's blood spilled on me. He didn't speak German, this guy. He didn't understand what Goeth was saying."

When Eisenstein went back to Kraków after the war, he could find no trace of his family, even though his father had had eight brothers and sisters, and each had had eight children. Only Julius and his two brothers had survived. "They'd killed our whole family and we didn't have anything to look forward to but being on our own... It's a devastating thing to find out you have no family. You can't sleep at night. You wake up screaming. You were feeling so guilty about it, that you remained and the whole family is not here any more."

Page after page. Story after story. Year after year. Each new tale of lives reconstructed from the rubble of Plaszow, of new family trees planted, of businesses built, makes us wonder how civilisation could ever have erupted into the Holocaust. But does it not also make us marvel even more at how human beings somehow manage to find a habitable crack of light — like lizards in reverse — often only inches away from the dark shadows that still haunt them?



Nangini, giant fig tree: from *Africa* (Little Brown, £50), a haunting and vivid photographic portrait of the people, landscapes and animals of the dark continent seen through the lens of fashion photographer Herb Ritts

Crossroads on the ley lines

The emaciated ghost of Tolkien stalks a mock-medieval soap opera

■ LORD OF CHAOS
By Robert Jordan
Orbit, £16.99

BILBO Baggins has a lot to answer for. It always seemed one of the great oblique absurdities of the strange 1960s that the guru of a large section of the Woodstock generation should be an elderly Oxford professor whose chief interests in life were the early English language and Nordic mythologies.

But J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* supplied an entire iconography of escapism to an age group that had rejected the postwar packet-soup materialism of their parents. The baby boomers loved Bilbo Baggins, and Gandalf the Grey wizard, and Thorin Oakenshield the noble dwarf, and even the all too humanly corruptible Gollum. They adored the legend of the One Ring, seeing in it a metaphor — never consciously intended by the author — for the evil of capitalism and its insidious power to turn even the best of us into wage slaves. They loved it all.

The tragedy is that they never grew out of it and are still frantically searching for a successor. Which is why Robert Jordan's gargantuan *Lord of Chaos, Book Six of the Wheel of Time* — 901 pages including glossary — is riding high on the pre-Christmas bestseller lists.

Jordan is a stereotypical baby-boomer himself — of the traumatised American variety — a militarily distinguished Vietnam vet who has settled down to a South Carolina existence as a bearded, pipe-smoking, chess-playing rural academic type who does a bit of huntin' and fishin' as a break from crafting epic fantasies.

Tolkien stands in relation to Jordan's *Wheel of Time* series as Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* might to an entire rerun of the Meg Richardson *Crossroads* saga. Jordan's invented world, detailed on a map that looks like a clone of Tolkien's Middle Earth, complete with "Mountains of Mist", has an embarrassing wealth of characters with names such as Rand al'Thor and Nynaeve al'Maera, which hint vaguely at pseudo-Norse or Celtic origins without really living up to them.

His melting pot of mythologies is more of an indigestible South Carolina stew, served up in repro mock-medieval pottery. Jordan's world is typical of a whole raft of pseudo-Arthurian universes based loosely on some romantic artist's mistaken impression of the 13th century or thereabouts.

Those looking for self-contained escapist universes with depth as well as breadth would do better to delve into Frank Herbert's remarkable *Dune* books — compare his sinister Bene Gesserit sisterhood with Jordan's anaemic Aes Sedai — or, for the sense of aeons revolving, Brian Aldiss's *Helliconia* series. Both are ostensibly science-fiction rather than fantasy but those with an antipathy towards futurology should remember that even *Star Wars* began with the words: "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..."

Jordan's books should come with a warning: "May seriously damage your critical faculties: for addicts only."

PETER MILLAR

Give it some slack

A SLACKER is a loser. A waster, an idler, a drop-out, a bohemian, someone who creates a kind of nihilistic chic out of his own uselessness. But the twentysomething man or woman who sees the difficulty of finding a job as an excuse not to bother looking for one is no mould-shattering new manifestation of some freaky-hip *fin de siècle* malaise. He is an old lazybones wearing a new hat.

In the tradition of *The Sloane Ranger Handbook*, and all the manuals for yuppies, Essex girls, naff people and the rest, this book seizes on the perennial traits of unmotivated youth and turns them into a convenient socio-economic phenomenon for the 1990s. The term "slacker", by the way, is borrowed from Richard Linklater, whose film of that name first brought this new lost generation to the attention of the world as long ago as 1991.

Or at least to the attention of America. For this is a tale of bright young jobless things who seek employment as "bellhops", hang out in "malls", and can still find something worth talking about in Jack Kerouac. It is, among other things, a declaration of war on the spartan work ethic and health obsession of the Clinton generation baby-boomers. There is a section on "Why We Smoke Cigarettes" ("daily brush with death can be invigorating"), and a piece headed "Alcoholism On A Shoestring Budget" ("Remember, an open medicine cabinet is an open bar").

Hacked together using mismatched typefaces and eccentrically cropped photographs, this paean to sloppiness is suitably "slack" in appearance, and the emphasis is always on irony. The result, when the culture gap allows, is hilarious. Read it, if only to watch Dunn justify the inclusion of Hamlet, Socrates and Jesus Christ in her "Slack Pantheon".

GILES COREN

■ THE OFFICIAL SLACKER HANDBOOK
By Sarah Dunn
Abacus, £6.99

TIMES BOOKS
THURSDAY
Stella Tillyard on the body and the city; Anglican Oxford and Catholic Europe

Roy Greenslade on the life and aspirations of sleaze king David Sullivan

Sex, smut and a sporting chancer

IT IS easy to parody David Sullivan. Scores of journalists have done so over the years. There is, after all, rich material for the satirist. Appearance: diminutive, distinctly tubby, ageing baby-face. Former career: professed pornographer. New career: covert pornographer. Fantasy: he will become a newspaper tycoon. Reality: he founded and owns the *Sunday Sport* and *Daily Sport*. Sporting record: erstwhile owner of racehorses and current owner of Birmingham City football club.

There is much more. Sullivan began life in the back streets of Cardiff and now lives in Essex in a neo-Georgian mansion he likes to hear referred to as a stately home. In the marble entrance hall is Sullivan's own crest *Per Laborum Ad Honorum* (through hard work to honour). In the basement is a bowling alley, dance floor, bar, swimming pool and Jacuzzi. Doors open to an Oriental garden and, beyond that, a deer park.

At 45, he is reputedly a millionaire many times over, having made his fortune in classic entrepreneurial fashion. He sold dirty magazines which promised much (to lure the buyers) and provided little (to dissuade the police from prosecuting). Later he opened a chain of sex shops across Britain.

More recently, he has invested in phone sex lines. Again, the people foolish enough to believe the salacious adverts often discover that the recorded message is mindless, sexless drivel. By then they have paid for the call. Sullivan calls it "a little bit of journalistic licence".

In a sense this puerile, but profitable, activity is a suitable metaphor for both pornography — an ultimately doomed search for pleasure without love — and for Sullivan's own pathetic desire to earn respect from society while faking his own respectability.

Throughout this short book, a follow-up to the author's *World In Action* report on Sullivan's activities two years ago, it is clear that Sullivan has been desperate to clean up his act for more than a decade. Yet his attempts to move his companies into the hands of others are revealed as shams by Mark Killick.

The sex shops and soft-porn magazines he is supposed to have sold are traceable to his master company. He is not simply the newspaper proprietor and football tycoon he wishes people to believe. Killick, who was largely responsible for the *Panorama* programme which exposed Robert Maxwell's illegal share dealings months before his death, is not another of Sullivan's mug punters.

Not that this is a satisfying biography. How could it be? Its subject is too seedy, and his effect on most of our lives too marginal, to warrant us reading on. But we are forced to reflect that his *Sunday Sport* sold an average of 550,000 copies in the second half of 1988, with its mixture of outrageous stories, such as "Aliens turned my son into an olive", naked women, sex adverts and Sullivan's own nationalistic rant of a column.

It has fallen ever since, but it managed to get the rest of the newspaper industry into trouble. The *Sport* perpetrated the worst recorded example of intrusion by sending a reporter and photographer into the hospital room of a badly injured television star. When the Calcutt report on privacy was published, it was clear that this single incident by a maverick paper had brought us closer to legislation.

We are also reminded that Sullivan was foolishly called in by Lord Stevens in 1987 to help run the *Daily Star*. In eight weeks the circulation fell by 250,000 and advertisers deserted every day. Stevens pulled out, writing off his £2 million investment in Sullivan's company.

Sullivan had made a mug of a noble lord. With his track record, he is likely to go on trying to do the same to many more in the years ahead.

■ THE SULTAN OF SLEAZE
By Mark Killick
Penguin, £4.99

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A single gold ring for Polly the pig

I have a growing suspicion that in her Christmas stocking this year, our young sow Polly will find a shiny, golden ring; and do not think for one moment that she has accepted a proposal of marriage.

I have *almost* made up my mind that her destructive ways are to be curbed. I wrote a few weeks ago about the way she could shift more concrete in a night than a motorway worker on double time. It only takes one tiny crack to appear in the floor of her sty and she will start to sniff it gently, snout twitching in anticipation of a glorious night's excavation. Having decided there is scope for further earthworks she will worry it a little more and, before many minutes have passed, she will be raising slabs heavy enough to wind Geoff Capes.

As I said when this problem first presented itself, I have been unwilling to ring a pig. It seems an unreasonable constraint on its natural instincts. After all, it must be rooting for something. I have always assumed it was fat, juicy worms that pigs dug for, or crunchy roots that lie hidden beneath the surface. Or perhaps they are bored, in which case it would be reasonable for a little mischief to break out. But even the sows who have the company of Murphy the boar — who is more than capable of getting up to a little diverting mischief himself — find that a little vandalism whiles the hours away.

As ever, I am grateful to all who wrote to me on this subject with both your advice and experience. R. Nesbit of Glencarse, Tayside, tells me there is absolutely no need to ring a pig; the rattle of a feed bucket will always divert them from their destruction. The Nesbits speak after a wide-ranging pig-owning career which included a Berkshire sow that was brought home on the back seat of an estate car. Apparently, the sow sat up and peered out of the back window for much of the M25, but nobody noticed. Sadly, the pig developed a talent for "re-landscaping" neighbouring gardens whilst ignoring all rattles of feed buckets, and that was that.



FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

From Oswestry, a letter tells me that in the writer's case, the ringing of their pig "was absolutely the right decision". After the pig had got used to the ring, she "could be allowed anywhere", to the extent that this sociable animal wandered around the lawn and enjoyed "a terrific variety of food". They kindly sent me a ring of the type they used. It is gloriously heavy, made of brass, and stamped "British made".

But the actual insertion of the ring causes me some concern. I know that in the case of ringing a bull, it is usual to call the vet; but with pigs it is the farmer who is expected to do it and I have no idea where to start nor, I suspect, do these sturdy British rings come with instructions.

I was forced to travel on the London Underground last week and I noticed that the wearing of rings in the nose by human beings seems to be considered fashionable. At least, I assume the girl was wearing it for fashion reasons; I cannot imagine that she was previously inclined to root up concrete for the fun of it. There again, she was so slender that maybe she was forced to truffle around for sustenance. One can never be certain. Sadly, she left the train before I could get close enough to see if the ring was stamped with a country of manufacture, or ask her whether she had inserted the ring herself, or asked the vet to help.

I had almost made up my mind to go ahead with the ringing when a letter from Pat Trumper of Kingsbridge unsettled me. She writes of Percy, her pet boar now of blessed memory, who dug "sitting holes" for himself. As he became ever larger, so the craters became deeper, and for the sake of the fleet it was decided he should be ringed. Percy, *by now a manly chap with a mind of his own*, seemed none too keen and it took two strollers, and a dose of tranquilliser to accomplish the deed. But the ring did not stay in place for long and after Percy had got through four of them and no vet could be found with the courage to try a fifth, Mrs Trumper was resigned to letting Percy have his way.

I am deeply suspicious that my attempts to ring Polly will go the same way. She has that "go on, I dare you" look in her eye. Anyway, Christmas is coming and I have told her that on the fifth day, my true love will send to me five gold rings. If she cannot leave the concrete alone, she will get the lot of them.

LIZ BOMFORD

Feather report

Spot the difference

HOW DO you distinguish a sparrowhawk from a kestrel? Sparrowhawks have become so common again in the past few years that the question often arises. Sparrowhawks are even seen in city centres now — there are about 30 pairs nesting in Edinburgh. They have recovered from the assault of the pesticides in the 1950s, when they died through eating too many small birds that had taken in the chemicals with weed seeds.

If you see a kestrel hovering, there is no problem. It hangs there in the sky, wings held forward and beating fast, tail spread. It studies a wide swath of ground beneath it, and shoots down at an angle or drops perpendicularly when it detects a vole.

Sparrowhawks have a different way of life. The males, which are smaller than the females, generally stay in the woods. They fly fast down the paths, or twist and turn among the trees. In the dim light of a fir wood, I have watched one flickering like a shadow between the orange trunks. They hunt down birds such as blue tits and coal tits.

The females come out into the fields more, speeding along a woodland edge or a hedgerow and pouncing on an unsuspecting woodpigeon or thrush that has just flown out of the trees. If you hear a blackbird give a scream of alarm, it is always worth looking quickly around you to see if it has not spotted a sparrowhawk dashing by.

All the same, there are many situations in which the bird you suddenly see — and probably won't see for long — could be either of these hawks. What do you look for then?

If the bird is flying through the sky, the important thing is wing-shape. The kestrel has distinctly long, pointed wings, and it flies rather steadily. The sparrowhawk has rounded, short-looking wings, and a longish, straight tail. Even out in the open, it glides along, with only three or four sharp wing-beats every so often to keep it going.



RJ

The pointed-wing Kestrel

That is about all there is to go by if you see only a silhouette against the bright sky. But if you get a good view of the bird perching, or can see the colour of its plumage in the air, it is much easier. Kestrels of both sexes have unmistakable orange-brown backs, and the male has a pale blue head. Female sparrowhawks are dark brown, the males are slate-blue. A front view also shows clear differences. Sparrow-hawks are boldly barred across the breast, the female with brown, the male with brick-red; while the kestrel's breast has only light, vertical streaks.

You never know when you are going to see one of these hawks. Recently a Londoner was startled by a kestrel dropping on to the pavement in front of him and picking up a rat. If you hear the angry, rattling cry of a carrion crow overhead, you may see it is in hot pursuit of a kestrel.

But crows also dislike sparrowhawks. I was walking alongside a railway line recently when a sparrowhawk shot out of the wood on one side with a crow on its tail. The crow was startled to see me and doubled back, while the hawk escaped into the wood on the other side.

Sparrowhawks often come to garden bird-tables, of course, and pick off a greenfinch or chaffinch. They come swirling in from the sky, and sweep off again with their prey in their claws. They generally take it to one of their regular plucking-places — an old nest in a tree, or a mound thrown up by a mole — and all that is left behind them is a little scattering of feathers.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — look for green sandpipers wintering around small lakes, rivers and ditches. Twitchers — blackpoll warbler at Bewl Water, East Sussex; snowy owl at North Ronaldsway, Orkney; waxwings at Middlesbrough, Cleveland. Details from Birdline (0891 700222). Calls cost 40p per minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*



A recent study puts the population of red squirrels in England, Scotland and Wales at about 160,000, compared with two and a half million greys

Bright-eyed, bushy-tailed, and in danger

Unless the red squirrel is given a helping hand, it may disappear within 20 years, a victim of its grey cousin's success

When Beatrix Potter's *Tale of Squirrel Nutkin* was published in 1903, red squirrels formed a major part of the wildlife in her native Lake District.

Now, many experts are concerned that unless measures to conserve the red squirrel are quickly established, the animal may disappear from mainland England and Wales in the next ten to 20 years.

Research shows that as the population of the grey squirrel, introduced into Britain from North America in the mid-1870s, increases, reds are becoming scarcer.

Harry Pepper, a Forestry Authority wildlife and conservation researcher, and co-author of *A Critical Look at Conserving the British Red Squirrel*, says: "It is an inescapable fact that as the grey has increased its range, the red has disappeared.

"The reds are in decline and if we want to slow or stop it we must look at short-term and long-term measures."

A recent study commissioned by the Joint Nature Conservancy Committee, to be published next year, puts the population of red squirrels in England, Scotland and Wales at about 160,000, compared with two and a half million greys.

In central and southern England they are now present in just four areas: Hope Forest in Derbyshire, Formby on Merseyside, Cannock Chase, Staffordshire, and Thetford Chase in East Anglia. In Wales, *their distribution is* very fragmented.

Although Cumbria is one of the few areas in Britain where the red squirrel is relatively safe, campaigning organisations know they cannot afford to be complacent.

This year Red Alert North West, a conservation partnership of more than 120 groups and individuals sponsored by NPI, a pensions company, organised the first national forum of more than 50 red squirrel experts to discuss a common strategy for the animal's conservation.

So why does the robust grey displace the more timid native red? The most likely reason is that the grey squirrel is more efficient at using resources, especially food, than the red.

Whereas the red prefers the seeds and nuts of a conifer forest, the grey is a better forager and can easily survive in broadleaf and mixed forests, suburban parks and urban environments.

In late autumn, the greys increase their body weight — important for breeding — by about 20 per cent, almost twice as much as the reds, giving them a better chance of survival.

Studies show that reds feed for only a few hours a day in winter and if food is difficult to obtain, their fat reserves become depleted, leaving them more vulnerable to cold and infections.

Red Alert suggests that if you live in an area with red squirrels — not always obvious by their colour but with *distinguishing ear tufts not* present in greys — you can help by feeding them from a bird table or a feeding hopper near a hedge or in woodland.

The best supplementary foods include wheat, sunflower seeds, unsalted peanuts and hazelnuts. If both species are present, red-only feeding hoppers prevent theft by greys.

But there is controversy among conservationists. In a recent article in *Country-Side* magazine about the Isle of Wight's red squirrel sanctuary, the author and conservationist Donald Parr wrote: "By far the biggest enemy to either species is human interference. Felling broadleaf trees and destruction of much of their natural cover has brought about a marked decrease in numbers."

He believes that the island offers the best hope of preventing the reds becoming extinct. "Here is the native habitat of broadleaf forests and of hazel," he writes. "To date, there are no grey squirrels on the island and islanders and conservationists alike do their best to ensure that they remain *persona non grata*."

Mr Parr has known a crowded ferry from the mainland to be stopped and anchored mid-Solent until a stowaway grey squirrel had been caught, boxed and returned home.

Mr Pepper and his co-author Dr John Gurnell, senior lecturer in Biological Sciences at London University, fear the British experience could be repeated in Europe, where the red is common almost everywhere.

Four pairs of greys were introduced into a parkland area south of Turin in 1947, and have now colonised more than 150 square kilometres. The reds have only survived on the banks of the river boundaries.

They believe the Channel Tunnel could provide a route into Europe for greys inadvertently stowed away in cargo lorries. They suggest that in the short-term some grey squirrels should be removed, supplementary food supplied to the reds where appropriate, and reds re-introduced to bolster dwindling populations.

The National Trust has established a red squirrel reserve at Formby, Merseyside, where the animals are provided throughout the year with supplementary food, such as peanuts, by wardens and visitors resulting in a population density ten times greater than in natural situations.

The Trust also owns about 7,000 acres of woodland in the Lake District where reds are still widespread. In the grounds of the Trust's offices at Grasmere, "red-only" feeding hoppers have been installed.



PLANET EARTH

The grey squirrel has spread vigorously since the 1870s

Because grey squirrels are heavier, when one enters the feeding hopper, a spring-loaded trap door opens and it falls, unharmed, to the ground. "We are fighting a rearguard action," says Nigel Sale, a press officer for the Trust. "It is not a case of the grey being the enemy, just recognising that the red is in danger and doing all we can to help."

As part of the National Trust's 1995 centenary, the northwest region has organised three Squirrel Nutkin guided walks next summer. The Forestry Authority hopes to recreate the book's adventures, in which the squirrels made rafts and paddled to an island to collect nuts.

LYNNE GREENWOOD

● *National Trust, Beatrix Potter's Lake District (07687 75173). For a Red Alert leaflet, send a SAE to NPI, 55 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2UE (0892 705667). Feeding hoppers: standard (£20) and red-only (£54) from Alpe Thermo Products, 74 Willsbridge Hill, Willsbridge, Bristol, Avon BS15 6EY (0272 491175). Prices do not include p&p or VAT.*

THE TIMES

Priority flower show tickets



The Chelsea Flower Show is the world's most prestigious horticultural event and *Times* readers are exclusively offered the first opportunity to buy tickets for public days at the 1995 show, on May 25 and 26.

This privilege is valuable; demand is always heavy and attendance has to be strictly limited to prevent overcrowding. Admission is only by tickets obtained in advance.

Any reader who buys two all-day tickets for May 25, for £23 per person, or May 26 for £20, will receive a free entrance ticket for the Royal Horticultural Society gardens at Wisley, Surrey. On May 25 only, admission is £13 per person after 3.30pm and £6 after 5.30pm. Readers can also reserve places for an exclusive Times tea, details of which will be sent with your tickets.



Held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital in Chelsea, the show's displays contain millions of flowers. Latest advances in gardening equipment and techniques, flower arranging, floristry and garden design are also on show.

For many visitors the *highlight is the full-scale* gardens.

To book your flower show tickets, phone First Call on 0171-396 4696 and mention *The Times* offers.

FIRST CALL 0171-396 4696 NO BOOKING FEE

Gardening: page 22

هذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

Streets with strange or rude-sounding names are the source of endless hilarity — unless you happen to live in one

Nice road, shame about the name



A street in Wanstead, east London: you don't have to be mad to live there, but it helps

It appears, at first, to be a street with no name: a quiet cul-de-sac in Lewisham, southeast London, with no litter, plenty of window boxes, two low-rise blocks of flats — and no street sign. At number 21, a round man in a thick blue sweater opens the door and agrees to answer a few questions. "We've been here three years," he says. "Because the sign is missing, people can never find us. Mind you, by the time we've given our address, they don't always want to." Why exactly is that? "We live in Nuding Close," he says.

Living in a road that sounds like a music-hall joke is never going to be easy. Sniggering is by no means confined to school playgrounds, and about 80 per cent of all British "humour" relies on cheap shots and innuendo. If your family name is Flowers, Mower, Tubbs or Hedges, people may ring and say: "Shouldn't you be in the garden?"

> When you tell people the street name they think you are a crank

If you live or work in Hookers Road (Walthamstow), Windrush Lane (Sydenham), Nutter Lane (Wanstead), Looe Gardens (Ilford), Jackass Lane (Keston), Clitterhouse Road (Cricklewood) or even Organ Lane (Chingford), you can also expect problems. They may be minor compared with having a rail link dug under your garden or a glue factory built across the road, but are enough to embarrass, frustrate and annoy. "The blank looks are what really get to me," says the man at number 21. "As soon as you tell people, you can see them thinking, 'Is he a crank? Is he winding me up?' "

Nuding Close is an extreme example. But even a name as modest as Farquhar Road may create difficulties. There's one near the Underground station in Wimbledon Park: two rows of three-bedroom Edwardian houses, hydrangeas and children everywhere. Though proud of their homes, residents are less enthusiastic about the street name. "I hate it," says Barbara Hewett, a children's nanny. "It is the main drawback to living here. Some people giggle when you say it; most look twice at you and say 'Whaaat?' "

Those who live in the street pronounce it "Farkwuh", with the stress on the Far. Even this can't stop some non-residents being reminded of an insult a Bob Hoskins character might use. "If someone asks me where I live, I spell it first and then say it," says charity worker Andrea Groom at number 20. If you're unhappy with the name your parents gave you, it's easy enough to change it. If you don't like your street name, the only way to get rid of it may be to move.

Many medieval indelicacies have now been eradicated — Grape Lane in York, for instance, is a cleaned up version of Grope Lane, according to *The Street Names of England*.

Our appetite for new slang is so voracious, however, that even if local authorities renamed all our roads every year, complications would still arise. For about 500 years, the word "butt" innocently referred to the place where yeoman practised their archery, or to a large cask in which wine or sherry was stored. Now that it has become something you sit on or wiggle, life has become awkward for those at The Butts in Brentford and New Butt Lane in Deptford. The streets which most commonly cause trouble, however, are those named after people. Many Astles, Botts, Pratts and Cundys no doubt became Smiths and Joneses years ago, but their ancestors' memory lives on in Astle Street (Battersea), Bott's Mews (Bayswater), Pratts Passage (Kingston upon Thames), and Cundy Street (Chelsea).

Though tiresome for those who live there, nudge-nudge addresses rarely have much impact on property prices. Houses in Farquhar Road, for instance, fetch £120,000-150,000 — about the same as those in surrounding streets. "In my experience, odd-sounding names never deter buyers. They may even add to the appeal," says Simon Parsons, a negotiator with the local agents Rashbrook & Son.

"If properties are unpopular in a particular road, it's never because of the name," says Nicole Donovan of Nuding Close's local agents, Oak Estates. "It'll be because people have said the road is noisy or unsafe, or that cars keep being broken into."

If a home looks nice, is upright, and isn't overpriced or next to a Hell's Angels squat, will it sell even if it's in Pigswill Boulevard? Apparently so. "I'd rather live in Farquhar Road than an Acacia Avenue," says businesswoman Jane Scoon at number 21. "At least we don't sound like something out of a suburban sitcom."

Wounded by the complaints and bad press which followed

> Odd names never deter buyers. They may even add to the appeal

the efforts of various authorities to foist Fidel Castro Street or Fred Smith Close on unsuspecting residents, many councils now take a more cautious approach to naming new streets. Some, such as Wandsworth in London, ask people to make their own choice or run alternatives past them.

Such consideration is too late for our man in Nuding Close. He is still troubled. "When I ring people up to give them my address, they sometimes put the phone down on me," he says. "Of course, there is an additional complication in my case." What's that? "Well, my name. Born the same day but not the same year — I'm Mickey Rooney."

DAVID SHANNON

● The Street Names of England *by Adrian Room (Paul Watkins (0780 56793) £7.95).*

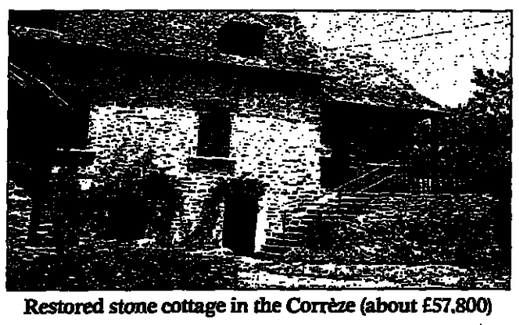
No need to splash out in the French lakeland

Buyer's France: THE CORREZE

CLOSE to the popular Dordogne is an unspoilt *département* yet to be discovered by foreign property buyers. On the western edge of the Massif Central, the Corrèze is a French lakeland, criss-crossed by rivers.

For FFr 479,000 (about £57,800), you can buy a restored stone cottage (right) with barn and outbuildings, set in half an acre, situated in the southern Corrèze, near Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne. It has a living room, kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms on the first floor, with wine cellars below. There is room for three bedrooms in the loft.

The British agent is The French Property Shop, Wadhurst Road, Mark Cross, East Sussex TN6 3PB (0892 852449).



Restored stone cottage in the Corrèze (about £57,800)

Some of the most scenic reaches of the river Dordogne, between Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne and Argentat, are in the southern Corrèze, with plenty of opportunities for swimming, fishing and canoeing from small sandy beaches.

The area also has two beautiful hilltop villages: Turenne, its white stone houses below a castle, looking over a valley to the mountains of Cantal; and Collonges, where the red sandstone buildings have pepperpot towers.

Unmodernised, stone farm buildings can be found for £15,000 in the area north and east of Brive-la-Gaillarde, but expect to pay at least £30,000 for a habitable home. There are also a number of larger, restored farmhouses, with barns suitable for conversion to gites, for £70,000 to £80,000.

The climate in the south of Corrèze is similar to that of the Dordogne, with long, hot summers, and mild winters.

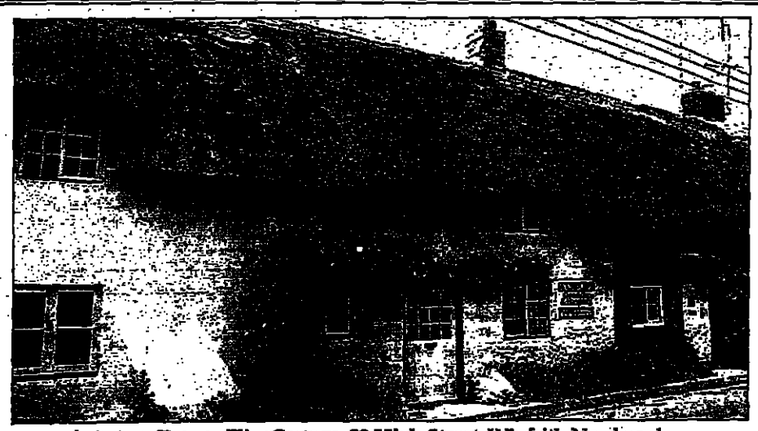
CHERYL TAYLOR

about £90,000

DORSET
Tranquillity Cottage
22 High Street
Winfrith Newburgh
£84,950

CORNWALL
Tredowr House
Rilla Mill
Liskeard
£94,500

DEVON
Greenaway Cottage
South Milton £85,000



Dorset: Tranquillity Cottage, 22 High Street, Winfrith Newburgh. Grade II listed village cottage with rear garden backing onto farmland. Two bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room, kitchen, utility area (exposed beams throughout). Two outbuildings. About £84,950 (Savills, 0202 887331).



Devon: Greenaway Cottage, South Milton, near Kingsbridge. Renovated 17th-century thatched cottage, with good-sized rear garden, situated in a small village about a mile inland from the sea at Thurlestone. Two bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room (with stone fireplace) and fitted kitchen. About £85,000 (March and Petit, 0548 857588).



Cornwall: Tredowr House, Rilla Mill, Liskeard. Georgian house with lawned rear garden bordered by woodland, situated in a popular village close to the moors. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms (one *en suite*), three reception rooms, kitchen and conservatory. About £94,500 (Millerson, 0579 344401).

C.T.

PROPERTY

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HOLLAND PARK W14 Owner going abroad. Immediate sale required. 5 beds, 2 ensuite baths, sep. guest shower rm. huge recept, private garden. 73yr lease £375,000. Tel 0973 193121

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HOLLAND RD W14

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MAYFAIR

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THE TIMES

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

The new Commercial Property Section will appear within the Classified Property Section, including relevant editorial on Wednesday 18th January 1995

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EXOTIC ISLANDS: Discovering the wildlife and luxury hotels of Mauritius, and the riverside food of Borneo

Where the parakeets sound a welcome

DON McCULLIN



Tranquillity reigns on this beautiful Mauritian beach, but the number of tourists is expected to rocket in coming years

Few creatures on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius bite or sting, which is comforting to know when you are sitting motionless in a clearing among the ebony trees anxiously waiting for the world's rarest parrot to come home to his egg-sitting mate.

A few years ago, the number of echo parakeets in the wild had dwindled to 15, about the same number as the pink pigeon but still better than the Mauritius kestrel, of which there were only four.

Over the last ten years, however, a small conservation team, led with bounding enthusiasm by Carl Jones, a Welshman, has saved the kestrel and the pink pigeon from following the dodo and 18 other indigenous species of bird into extinction. Now the volunteers with the Mauritius Wildlife Appeal Fund are close to pulling off another coup with the echo parakeet.

In aviaries in the south of the island, seven precious chicks are being fostered by common ring-necked parakeets, and there could now be as many as 28 living in captivity and the wild.

Does it matter if one species of parakeet, which appears to differ little from other similar species, dies out? Mr Jones has no doubt. "We have the knowledge and the skill to save these creatures from extinction and we would be neglecting our duty as human beings if we did not try," he said.

His is no academic, elitist, approach to conservation. He wants everyone to be able to see the birds once they are back in the wild, and the Mauritius Government is planning to create a national park in the mountains, where groups of tourists will be taken on escorted trips.

As we headed in a Land Rover deeper into the forests, which are choking to death and crying out to be saved from the ravages of alien guava, privet and other flora, I had an awful vision of Mauritius under a new, even more alien attack: package tourists.

Perhaps there is no need to worry. Only a handful of the 400,000 visitors who will fly to the 40-mile long, 28-mile wide island in the coming year will venture beyond the wide beaches, which are protected from the marlin-teeming vastness of the Indian Ocean by the island's garland of coral reefs and the string of luxurious hotels, which the tourists will have little obvious reason to leave.

Mauritius probably has a higher proportion of top quality hotels than any other tourist island resort in the world. Hotels such as Saint Geran, Maritim, Belle Mare Plage, Royal Palm, Touessrok, Paradis and Merville have been built with exquisite taste and are benefitting from centuries of the blend of French, British and Indian culture, which has resulted in a natural flair for service and a quite remarkable variety of cuisine.

Many of the hotels have been built well away from local villages, so that there is little reason for a stroll to an outside restaurant.

Some restaurants, such as the Domaine du Chasseur, whose owners claim, disconcertingly, that hunters can eat the deer they have shot earlier that day, or the Domaine des Pailles, which has attempted to recreate an air of the old Mauritius and sugar estates, have been specially built.

The Pailles "theme park" concept is not yet fully succesful but its four ethnic restaurants are among the best on the island and in constant demand from local and visiting businessmen.

Those businessmen are now regarded as the key to the future economic development of Mauritius. The island wants to become the Singapore of the Indian Ocean, but with more personal freedom. In the past two years, 1,200 foreign companies have opened offices in the capital, Port Louis, to take advantage of the incentives given to offshore financial services. The 32 companies now quoted on the new stock exchange are all booming as local investors clamour to make good use of their savings and jockey for prime position and contracts in the coming freeport.

The boom has boosted Mauritian per capita GDP from $817 (about £524) ten years ago to $3,000 (£1,923) today, and the average 6.5 per cent a year growth rate has reduced unemployment among the 1.1 million inhabitants to 1.5 per cent.

So fast has the growth and diversity been that financial services have overtaken textiles as the most important part of the economy and are rapidly catching up with sugar and tourism. The vast pool of cheap labour which encouraged investors to set up their factories is now employed and earning much higher wages, so the island has to import workers on contract, mainly from China.

Like every other nation, Mauritius suffered badly from the architectural brutality of the 1960s and 1970s, which spawned ugly concrete blockhouses, now squatting alongside the old, attractive colonial buildings that once gave Port Louis its character. And everyone in Port Louis seems to have a cough, perhaps because of the pungent clouds of dark, acrid smoke billowing unheeded from lorries and, particularly, buses.

But that pollution is confined to Port Louis, and the capital, with its confusion of signs in English, French, Chinese and Arabic reflecting the countries which have colonised the place over the centuries, is quickly skirted by a motorway heading to the beach resorts.

All around the island, a constant, cooling breeze keeps the temperature at comfort level and the beaches are thankfully quiet, with only a few jet-skis, banana rides or pushy youngsters selling souvenirs.

Mauritius attracted 200,000 tourists five years ago. In five years' time this number is expected to rise to more than 600,000, and by the year 2002, according to the government, it will have doubled again to about 1.3 million. The tourists come mainly from Europe but increasingly from South Africa, Australia, Madagascar and the African mainland.

Air fares are high because the state-owned airline, Air Mauritius, is determined to remain viable and able to invest in modern jets such as the Airbus A340 by keeping out low-cost charter operators. By so doing, it is ensuring that only those come who appreciate the finer things in life.

The government is confident that the island and its people, all of whom speak at least three, and usually four, languages, can cope with double the number of tourists. It is, however, assuming that the tourists, 30,000 of whom will have been from Britain this year, will want to come for the beach and the sun. Delightful as the beach hotels are, the ever more sophisticated traveller, who is prepared to spend 12½ hours flying non-stop to reach his destination, wants something more than grand hotels, year-round sunshine, shining sands and the clearest of clear waters.

The remaining inland wilderness areas where the echo parakeet still flies, the giant fruit bat swoops, the kestrel takes meals of pre-prepared white mice and echoes of the original island eco-system can still be found, could prove to be the difference that makes Mauritius more appealing than any other holiday destination.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

How to get there and where to stay

☐ The author travelled courtesy of the Mauritius Government Tourist Office (071-584 3666) and Air Mauritius (071-434 4375), which operates twice weekly non-stop flights from Heathrow. British Airways (0345 222111) flies twice weekly from Gatwick, calling at the Seychelles. Although most people fly on package trips, aircraft seats are available from £550 to £1,000 return.

☐ For individual bookings, "grand" hotels range from about £130 to £200 a night. A number of no-frills, beachside bungalows and apartments can be hired direct from about £10 per night per person.

☐ About 26 British tour operators offer packages to Mauritius. Among them, British Airways Holidays (0293 611611) offers a 12-day stay at La Croix Du Sud, B&B, from £969, and Thomson Worldwide (071-707 9000) offers 12 days' half-board at the Belle Mare Plage for £1,359. Thomas Cook Holidays Worldwide Faraway Collection (0733 332255) offers half-board with a de luxe room at the St Geran from £2,494 per person. An all-inclusive package booked through the same company at the Maritim costs from £1,974 per person.

☐ Mauritius suffers occasional cyclones in the rainy season, Jan-May. It is hottest in Nov-April and coolest in May-Oct (about 75F).

Festive getaways

CHRISTMAS

☐ **Driveline Europe (0707 660011) offers a Christmas and/or New Year stay at a converted watermill, the Mouline D'Audenfort Hotel, near Calais, at £49 per person a night, including breakfast and return ferry from Dover (car plus four) or £62 per person (car plus two). Dinner £35, paid locally. Not recommended for children.**

☐ **Crystal Premier Britain (081-390 8513) offers full board, Dec 24-27, at the five-star Foley Lodge Hotel, Newbury, Berkshire, from £295 per person.**

☐ **Abercrombie & Kent (071-730 9600) offers seven nights — Dec 20-27 or Dec 24-31 — at the five-star La Gazelle d'Or Hotel, Taroudant, Morocco, from £1,906 per person, half-board, including return club class flight from Gatwick to Marrakesh.**

☐ **Forestdale Hotels (0500 276440) offers three nights at the 17th-century Stratton House Hotel, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, at £290 per person, full board, Dec 24-26.**

☐ **British Airways Holidays (0293 615353) has four-night city breaks to Paris (staying at three-star Amiral Duperre hotel) and Amsterdam (three-star Rho Hotel) from £215 per person. Flights depart Dec 23.**

☐ **Dukes Hotel, St James's Place, London (071-491 4840) offers three nights, full board, for £550 per person, Dec 24-27, including a visit to Kempton Park races on Boxing Day.**

NEW YEAR

☐ **Skybus Holidays (071-373 6055) offers £150 discount on seven-night, half-board holidays at the three-star Hotel Rex St Lucian, St Lucia. Cost, £839 per person, departs Gatwick Jan 1.**

☐ **Cadogan Travel (0703 332661) offers seven-night, half-board, stays at the Charme Beach hotel in Hammamet, Tunisia, at £169 per person. Flights depart Heathrow on Mon, Wed and Thurs, Jan 4 to Mar 31.**

☐ **Moswin Tours (0116 271 9922) has seven-night self-catering skiing breaks at Zwiesel, Bavaria, for £482 per person, including poles and boots, five-day ski pass, tuition and sleigh ride. Depart Heathrow Jan 6.**

☐ **Twickers World/Red Sea Holidays (081-892 7606) offers a seven-night package to Egypt for £299 per person, including three nights half-board at the Hotel Mashrabia, Hurghada, and three nights' Nile cruising Aswan to Luxor. Departs Gatwick Jan 6 and 13.**

☐ **Hayes and Jarvis (081-741 9902) offers 14 nights at the four-star Holiday Inn in Goa at £599 per person, excluding meals. Flight departs Manchester Dec 29.**

☐ **Arblaster & Clarke Wine Tours (0730 893344) offers New Year at the four-star Assiette-Champenoise Château Hotel, near Rheims, Dec 30-Jan 2, at £499 per person, including dinner, champagne house visit, and coach from London or Dover to Rheims.**

CHRISTINE WHEELER

A taste of Indonesia

At dawn the murky waters of the Barito river, which glides like a coiled cobra through the city of Banjarmasin in southern Borneo, carry boats laden with sweet potatoes, white cassava roots and mountains of leafy greens down to the *pasar terapung*, or floating market. Reaching the estuary, the farmers merge into the noisy throng of fishermen, where prow to stern their motorised *klotoks* (canoes) jostle like a shoal of colourful fish.

I had come to Borneo to discover the true identity of Indonesian food. Here, far from the Western food culture, which has contaminated the tourist islands, I hoped to find it.

I nosed my rented canoe into the melée past vessels weighed low in the water with sacks of rice and wheels of creamy tofu. Chillies, bright splashes of red, nestled in wide wicker baskets beside hands of ginger and vanilla-stick clusters. In search of breakfast, I found a *klotok* café displaying a tempting selection of Banjarese pastries. Seated in the stern of her boat, the vendor passed the chosen delicacy to me with the aid of a long pole. It was a wickedly sweet concoction of banana and nuts accompanied by a glass of blossom-scented tea.

Leaving Banjarmasin, I headed north by bus for the port of Samarinda in the province of East Kalimantan, from where I boarded one of the motor-powered riverbuses that travel the broad, brown Mahakam river, carrying 60 to 70 passengers. When the boat stopped to take on passengers, we were hijacked by a flotilla of sampans paddled by straw-hatted vendors selling food from steaming pails. I called my order and was handed a banana leaf package of rice and shredded chicken in a spicy sauce.

Infinitely versatile, environmentally friendly, the banana leaf is indispensable to Indonesian cooks. It makes the quintessential "cook-in" and "take-away" container. Fish is wrapped and baked in banana leaves; rice stuffed with meat or sweetened with sugar is steamed, boiled and barbecued in them.

The variety of tropical fruits on the quayside would have graced a banquet of the gods. Most famous, even infamous, is the durian. This large, greeny-yellow fruit has a thick skin with tough spikes. Akin to sniffing an open sewer, cracking open a durian is not for the faint-hearted, but the sublime vanilla custard flesh is worth holding your breath for.

Some riverbuses chug relentlessly to the interior without stopping, and passengers sleep on the decks. These boats have primitive cooking facilities for the on-board cooks and a rough table and stools. In the sticky heat of the galley, young women sweat over a gas stove. As night came, fresh fish hissed and spluttered in a wide black pan. They were served with huge *krupus*, curled crisps of shrimp and tapioca flour, stored in dried discs then plunged into bubbling oil, where they bloomed like exotic flowers.

After several days, I disembarked and headed along a tributary in a small motor boat, which moored for lunch at a *warung*, the lowliest of eating places. In this one, jars of pink and yellow *krupus* crowded the shelves beside bulbous bottles of sweet onion and shredded ginger fried to a crisp in coconut oil.

In a soot-stained kitchen hung with purple garlic, the cook fried a pungent compound of nutmeg, ginger, lemon grass and green chilli in a *belanga* (heavy wok), over a clay stove fuelled with wood. With the addition of fish and coconut milk thickened with pounded nuts, this formed the fish component of the ubiquitous *nasi campur* — a compilation of steamed rice, meat or fish and vegetables.

Back on the Mahakam, waiting for the riverbus, I was lured by a delicious aroma to a vendor grilling fish stained with tumeric over a portable charcoal brazier. As he fanned the smouldering coals, the slashed sides of the fish cooked in stripes of black and fiery gold. "What is it called?" I asked, tasting the sweet and smoky flesh. "*Ikan bakar*" — "Fire fish", he replied.

I was nearing the end of my voyage, but still had not found *udang galah*, the giant, freshwater prawns for which this area is famous. Then, late one evening on a cargo boat of salt fish bound for Samarinda, we paused at a floating *warung*. In the orange glow of a swaying lamp lay a pink pile of massive prawns, fresh from the wok. With dextrous speed the vendor fashioned a cup of banana leaves, tossed in a fistful of vermicelli, some chilli garlic sauce and fried ginger. She topped this with two succulent monsters still glistening with coconut oil. I clasped this fishy grail: my quest was over.

SARAH MARSH

Fact file

☐ **London Heathrow to Jakarta: Malaysian Airlines (081-862 0800) £733 return (high season); Royal Brunei Airlines (071-584 6660) from £644 return.**

☐ **Wexas International (071-589 3315) offers a nine-day package from Britain, taking in Banjarmasin and the Mahakam river, from £1,400 including flights.**

☐ **For further information, contact the Indonesian Tourist Office, 3-4 Hanover Street, London W1 WIR (071-493 0030).**

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SKIING: Exhilarating back-country discoveries in Switzerland, and the more comfortable side to resort living

Off piste to adventure

■ NEXT week sees the opening of Verbier's new Funitel gondola system, which cost SFr20 million (about £9.6 million). Running from the mid station at Ruinettes up to Attelas, the Funitel promises to deliver 2,000 skiers an hour to the pistes above the town.

To get the best out of Verbier, however, you have to get off the pistes and right out of the resort.

DOUG SAGER



Behind Mont Fort, well away from the tourist runs of Verbier, is some of the finest free-skiing in the Alps

Though only 14 years old, Mikey is a Verbier veteran, and has skied at least three weeks a year in the off-piste capital of the Alps since he first strapped on skis at the age of four. He knows Verbier's pistes like the back of his hand. But when I met up with Mikey and his mother on the terrace of Attelas last spring I was amazed to learn that he'd never been behind Mont Fort, never seen the snow sculpted larches in the gladed bowl from Bruson down to Sembrancher, never skied off the back side of Greppon Blanc down some of Switzerland's most scenic alpine pastures into the medieval wooden tenements of Mache, a hamlet so benighted that old village crones hobbling in the lanes look at the handful of skiers who descend each month as if their sleek ski suits were the skins of Martians.

Mikey is not alone. Even the resort's marketing director, Andrew Gordon, the epitome of the physically fit and aggressive skier Verbier attracts, shakes his head and admits wistfully: "I've never been to any of those places."

Verbier's Four Valley lift pass claims 100 ski lifts and 400km of pistes, nice round numbers which, like resort statistics everywhere, are best read as approximations. What the resort never advertises are its "secret stashes", the powder snow itineraries untrammelled by Verbier's 30,000 tourists.

There is no resort in the Alps with so many, so varied and such charming satellite resorts as Verbier. Bruson, Champex Lac, La Fouly and Vichères are all separate, family resorts on the Verbier skipass but scattered up to an hour away by car. Unlike Nendaz, Tzoumaz, Veysonnaz and Thyon — all resorts which are connected to Verbier by the Four Valleys lift network — the satellite resorts such as Bruson are hidden far enough away that the skiing is never crowded.

In addition to these entirely separate skiing areas, there are a number of itineraries which begin from the Four Valleys lifts and take skiers on day-long excursions far outside the resort's boundaries, yet with return transportation to the ski lift system at the end.

Hard-core skiers will argue, correctly, that Verbier's off-piste cannot compare in challenge and thrill to the couloirs and crevasses of Chamonix. But Chamonix's off-piste skiing is mountaineering, with ropes and consequential risk. On any of Verbier's five best excursions I could safely take a 14-year-old boy with no mountaineering experience, equipped only with a Pieps avalanche transceiver. So I did.

● **Mont Fort to Cleuson.** Mikey and I slip under the rope at 3,330m at the top of the Mont Fort cable-car station and traverse around the back of the cable-car building. We take the easier of two steep couloirs funnelling down to a 2m-wide passage between rock walls, which we sidestep through. Then it's out on to the relatively flat glacier floor of the Grand Desert, where powder snow is a guaranteed feature.

We can see the Matterhorn far off across three days of glacier trekking, part of the Haute Route trail from Chamonix to Zermatt. I set a circuitous route down side valleys to capture face after face of spring snow just as it softens in the morning light. Along the steep walls of Lake Cleuson, we sweat and pole. After lunch above the frozen lake, we cross the dam and find cool, crystal powder deep in the forest shade, then flat terrain over firm spring crust all the way down to Siviez, where a high-speed chairlift whips us back into the lift system pointed towards Verbier.

● **Mache.** Over the Four Valleys lift lines to Greppon Blanc we go, climbing with skis on shoulder for 15 minutes to the very top of the peak. Most skiers head off to the left, to an open bowl. So, Mikey and I swing to the right, where there is more challenging and less-travelled terrain. Non-stop through south-facing early morning powder we race. When we finally stop at the tree line, Mikey is panting like a puppy, but looking mighty proud.

A snowy road leads through clusters of old mazots, little hay barns on stilts. We ski to the roadway to get the bus back into the Four Valley lift system.

● **St Bernard Pass.** At the start of the St Bernard tunnel from Switzerland into Italy is a cranky old telecabine. The Verbier ski pass is accepted for the day with a supplement of SFr13 (about £6.20). At the top, we are cursorily examined by an Italian Customs man. We are standing right on the frontier.

Down from the knife-edge arête, Italy opens in a sunny bowl to our left. Mikey is quite taken with the idea of cross-country skiing. By traversing, we manage to find short, steep sections of untracked snow. But basically the skiing is easy cruising. An hour-long road trickles down through the final section of the deserted valley. We ski right into the village of Etroubles, and stomp into the Croix Blanc for pasta. A regular bus stops just outside the door for the tunnel run back to Verbier.

● **Bruson to Sembrancher.** From Verbier down by telecabine and over to Bruson by bus takes 45 minutes. Here on the colder north face across the valley from sunny Verbier, the snow keeps longer and lies deeper. Lift personnel actually smile, and sweep snow off chairlifts with a wave. From the Pasay chair we climb a ridgeline through fir trees for 20 minutes. To the left, widely spaced larch trees dot a steady pitch of deep soft snow, creamy and buttery in consistency. Our skis slice in wide arcs. At a barn, we pick up a winding forest trail down to the valley floor in Sembrancher. In this dark and dreary village we board the free train back to the Verbier cable-car station in Le Chable for a through ride 1,900m up to Attelas.

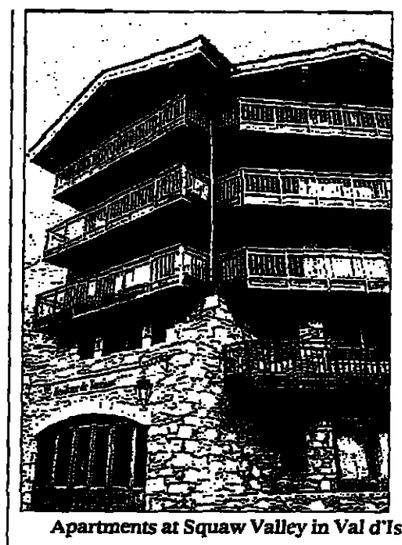
● **Champex Lac.** An oasis of tranquillity, where children can be safely left to skate on the picture-postcard frozen lake or to sledge in the dense fir hills, Champex is kept quiet by its distance from Verbier. One steep chairlift climbs to a rock spine. An open bowl offers impressively steep-fall line skiing. But Mikey and I follow the blue piste along the curving ridge.

Soon, trees appear on the right. Here is a forest of perfectly preserved powder, untracked weeks after Verbier has been reduced to snow rubble. I caution Mikey about what keeps this tree skiing, some of the best in the Alps, such a secret: bushes. Just before the forest slope stops at the edge of the piste road, a band of thick scrub halts all progress. Mikey doesn't mind fighting and falling through clutching alders. And neither do I. It's worth it to have the only tracks on the mountain.

DOUG SAGER



Powered up for a great take-off





Apartments at Squaw Valley in Val d'Isère are spacious and lavishly furnished

Go on, treat yourself

The thinning brown carpet and faded orange curtains of the Valmorel studio did not fulfil the brochure's heady promise. The stained bath and broken tiles in the "capsule" prefab bathroom were even worse. And the kitchen, so small you couldn't swing an oven glove, defied any description at all.

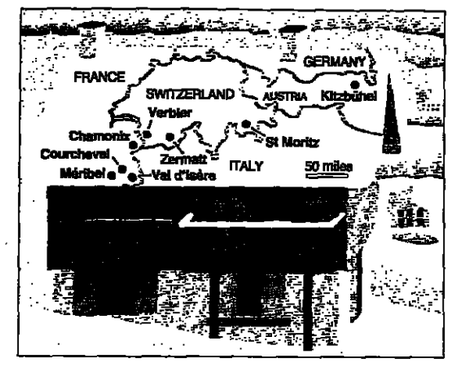
Our apartment was not unusual, but typical of thousands of studios in French ski resorts which have not only become exhausted by the passage of years but are wholly inadequate by today's standards.

Skiers of the 1990s are much more demanding than 20, or even ten years ago. They have discovered that there is more to a winter break than a week in surroundings as cramped and as dingy as these.

The most basic alpine apartment contains a kitchenette with fridge, two electric rings and, if you are lucky, a small oven. The no-frills bedrooms and sitting room are at best adequate in size.

However, a separate, higher tier of rental apartments also exists in most big-name resorts that is largely unknown to skiers. These apartments are let mainly by word of mouth, so it takes a little detective work to track down them down.

Courchevel, Méribel, Val d'Isère, Verbier and Zermatt lead the field in the variety and quality of this type of accommodation. Within this lofty level of lodging you can expect aesthetically pleasing decoration, a high ratio of bath to bedroom, a generous dining area, efficiently equipped kitchen including an oven and dishwasher, a television and telephone. Some have garages, ski rooms, log fires, hairdryers, microwaves, cable TV, video and cassette players. Prices are per apartment per week unless otherwise stated.



VAL D'ISERE: Résidence Squaw Valley is tucked behind the piste near the old church. The apartments here are spacious and lavishly furnished with comfortable sofas, antique pine furniture and fully fitted bathrooms. Maid service is included in the price and beds are made up every day. Cost: Two rooms £700 low season to £1,300 high season. The price for five rooms is £2,070-£4,500. Bookings: Ski Solutions.

MERIBEL: The Mérilys apartments are at the top of the resort above Rond Point. Decorated in a rustic style, with ample use of local carved pine, all the apartments have *en-suite* bedrooms, telephone, microwave, plus a shared sauna, laundry and games room. The beds will be made up on arrival and, at extra cost, daily cleaning and breakfast can be provided. Cost: Two rooms £500-£1,000. Five rooms: £1,600-£4,000. Bookings: Ski Solutions.

COURCHEVEL 1850: This resort has the widest choice of the most luxurious — and the most expensive — apartments in the Alps. Les Chalets du Hameau Bellecôte are large chalets divided into two and three-room duplexes. Cost: Five rooms £4,250-£7,000. Bookings: Ski Solutions.

CHAMONIX: The resort has a fair selection of privately owned apartments. Les Autannes, for example, is an attractive two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment in a former old stone-built hotel near La Tour ski area. Cost: £595-£765, excluding linen and cleaning. Bookings: Collineige.

VERBIER: Most apartments in Verbier are privately owned. Price and size vary considerably, but they are generally quite spacious. The Flaminia apartments down the hill below Medran are mainly south-facing with fireplaces, modern kitchens and a high level of comfort. Cost: Four rooms £900-£1,400. Bookings: Ski Solutions.

ZERMATT: The Résidence Mont Cervin faces, and is owned by, the five-star hotel of the same name. These duplex apartments have private saunas, whirlpools, fireplaces and big kitchens. Cost: from £3,200, including breakfast and dinner at the hotel. Bookings: Ski Solutions. The chalet-style Malteserhaus has three generously sized apartments. Cost: £237-£740 per person, including flights. Bookings: Bladon Lines.

FELICE EYSTON

Where to book luxury apartments

☐ Tour operators with high-quality apartments include: Bladon Lines (081-785 3131); Collineige (01276 24262); French Impressions (081-342 8870); and Inghams (081-785 7777).

☐ Apartment booking agencies: all the apartments in Val d'Isère, Méribel, Courchevel and Verbier listed above are bookable through Ski Solutions (071-602 9900). Other agencies in UK include Interhome (081-891 1294) and DER Travel Service (071-290 1111). In Val d'Isère, Val Location (010 33 7906 0660) advises on property availability and Val d'Isère Agency (010 33 7906 1522) has non-catered chalets and luxury apartments.

☐ Austria: Pego at Sägeweg 1, A-6700 Bludenz (010 43 5552 65666) is a useful letting agency with around 1,000 properties on its books.

☐ Switzerland: the tourist offices in Zermatt (010 41 2866 1181) and Saas-Fee (010 41 2857 1457) have computerised lists of properties to let with no agency fee.

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Next Saturday: Peter Hughes gives Christmas travel tips; Ernie Burrington sees sea turtles hatch in Florida; and Robert Quayle treks across China

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

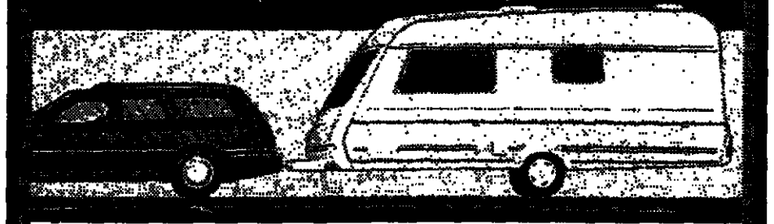
TELOGEN
(a) The stage in the life of a hair or hair follicle following cessation of growth of the hair. "Raymond explained that Toby's hair was in the telogen phase, lasting for around three months, which would be followed by a three year phase of growth."

WONGI
(b) An Aboriginal expression for a talk, chat or speech. "Give's a drink mate, my throat's rasping — that was one hell of a wongi."

TOORALOO
(b) A colloquialism for 'Goodbye'. 1921, D.H. Lawrence *Phoenix II*: "So long! See you soon! Too-ra-loo!"

SIRELAND
(a) The land of one's birth; one's native country or fatherland. "William said he could hear his sireland calling, and that he must leave the jungle straight away to head for Wood Dalling in Norfolk."

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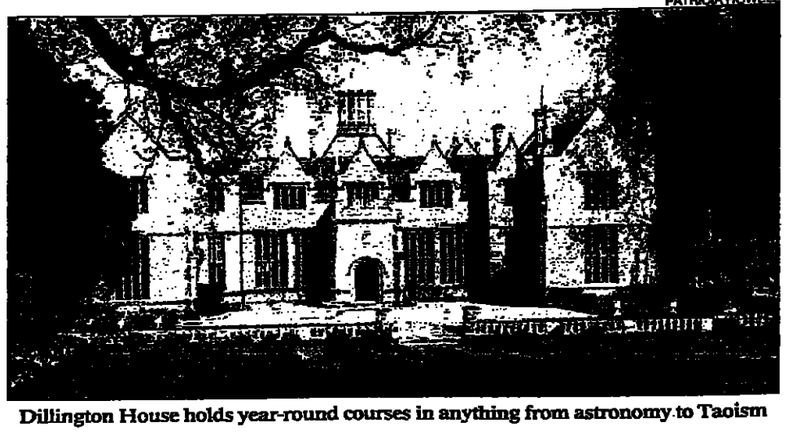
PETER TREVNOR



Pièce de résistance: Lucy Berrington triumphs over wayward paint and gooey gutta

Silk soothed away my sulk

PATRICIA HOWELL



Dillington House holds year-round courses in anything from astronomy to Taoism

What better balm for the soul than a weekend at a country house learning the art of silk painting?

The week had been disastrous, the journey from London abysmal. Frazzled and sulky, I arrived at Dillington House on Friday evening, resenting the prospect of two civilised days at a residential college. Polite conversation with strangers, forced creativity — no. What I really wanted was to whinge away the weekend counting my cigarette butts and plotting murders.

But I had signed up for silk painting, an activity that smacked of elegance and sophistication. Sulking was hardly appropriate. And Dillington itself defied stroppiness; a graceful, E-shaped building, in turns Elizabethan, late Georgian and early Victorian Gothic, it blends the air of a private country mansion with that of an upmarket rehabilitation centre. Near Ilminster in Somerset, this is a centre for adult education, conferences and training.

We dined soon after arriving and were swept off at 8pm for our first session. Beginners' silk painting is a weekend course taught by Paula and Simon Kenevan, the partnership Possi, whose designs are exhibited worldwide and sold as greetings cards the country over. Their weekend groups are limited to seven, ensuring individual attention.

It was an infant's induction exercise; draping a white scarf across plastic pots and dribbling coloured paints across the silk. We all looked doubtful. But Mr Kenevan, the irrepressible optimist, announced that silk painting was brilliant therapy and we would all leave Dillington with our sanity restored. Cheaper than a shrink, I conceded.

My class was all-female and, at 25, I was easily the youngest. The silk painting courses, Mrs Kenevan said, tend to attract widows bent on blowing their inheritances on all the things they couldn't do while young, or housewives whose children have recently left home. My group included a couple of primary school teachers who translated every exercise into activities for six-year-olds.

Later, examining our multicoloured splodges like psychiatric patients looking for the meaning of life in ink blots, we noticed hints of pictures. Trisha found poppies, I saw squid, someone (Mrs Kenevan assured us) had an elephant. Triumphantly we painted in the detail.

Mrs Kenevan has a history of encouraging new talent, having made a silk painter of her husband after spotting him selling fabric in a market several years ago. An art student but no dressmaker, she bought cottons and chiffons by the yard. At last he noticed her, married her — she wore a silk wedding dress painted with scarlet roses — and they celebrated their union with car-boot sales to sell off the fabric.

We swapped life stories lazily, for at Dillington just *being* is a relaxation exercise. This was once the home of Lord North, the late 18th-century Prime Minister credited with having lost the American colonies. Present residents look as though they have stopped the world and stumbled off.

Between classes they sit in the entrance hall, a huge lobby-cum-lounge with ecclesiastical windows, a marble fireplace and spears across the walls, perusing newspapers. They gather round oak tables in the dining room or the library for meals, or wander in their wellies through the 100-year-old arboretum, "the Wilderness". Miss Marple should be here, but occasional Murder Mystery Weekends are the closest that you'll get.

There are softly carpeted classrooms, a genteel bar and gold-tapped bathrooms. Bedroom windows, criss-crossed with lead, overlook a gravel frontage, a croquet lawn and cattle grazing in the parkland.



Dillington, a design by Paula and Simon Kenevan

The 1880s mews, with its arched entrance and enclosed courtyard, now contains a theatre and additional residential accommodation.

Saturday's silk session was more demanding than the previous night's "even-a-monkey-could-do-it" introduction. We pinned our silk lengths to wooden frames, making samplers, and were taught the fundamentals of technique. Silk is a cruel canvas; it gulps a mere dot of paint and sucks it across every fibre, oblivious to the hysteria of the artist. Silk painters use a liquid rubber substance called gutta to outline shapes before filling in the colour.

We painted flowers, fish and sunset landscapes. These exercises were designed to demonstrate the basics: how to let paints bleed into each other and how to stop them; how to use or avoid watermarks; how to avoid hysteria. When the paint was dry we ironed the silk to seal the colour, then washed away the gutta.

For our main project, painting a vase of flowers, the class was resistant. Flowers were too difficult, we complained. We wanted to spend all day on a single bloom, perfecting every petal. Mr and Mrs Kenevan confessed that previous pupils on a week-long course had sulked for two days through the flower exercise, only deigning to speak when they noticed their own impressive results.

We gave in and silence fell upon the classroom as we struggled with wayward paints, gooey gutta and disappearing ink.

The results were not bad. All but one person — even though her painting was good — seemed grudgingly satisfied with these first attempts. We had all forked out an extra £30 for starter kits — paints, gutta, silk, magic ink and notebook — but most people, inspired by Possi illustrations of *The Ancient Mariner* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, also bought additional materials. Everyone intended to do more.

Listed in the prospectus are dozens of courses, which can last a week, a weekend or a day. Many of the year-round courses are arty or creative: photography, calligraphy, Chinese brushwork, making videos or party food. Some are historical: "The Grand Tour", "The Rise and Fall of Monasteries". Others are swotty — languages, philosophy, "Astronomy from Scratch" — or simply wacky: massage, Taoism, psychic phenomena, "An Introduction to Lichens".

As for therapy, *eureka!* Somewhere my fractiousness had passed away. I left Dillington with flowers emblazoned on my silk and forgiveness nestling smugly in my heart.

LUCY BERRINGTON

☐ *The author was a guest of Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 9DT (0460 52427). Prices until June 1995 start at £23 for a day course; £99 (residential) or £79 (non-residential) for a weekend. The beginners' silk painting weekend costs £139 (residential) or £119 (non-residential).*

☐ *Christmas events at Dillington include a one-man Dickens show with tea tomorrow afternoon (£5). Christmas diners have a choice of two menus (£13 or £18 a head). The Belvedere Orchestra will perform a programme of music by Viennese composers on Friday, December 30 (tickets £7).*

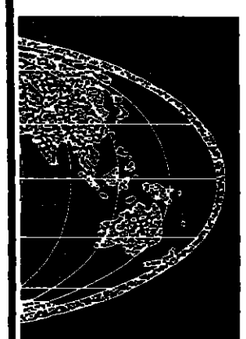
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WEEKEND BREAK: Manchester is rapidly regaining its old glory, with an eye to attracting visitors

Sunny future for rainy city



The beautifully restored Barton shopping arcade

It is only when there is a minor crisis that you get the true flavour of a great hotel. We had gone to Manchester for a weekend break at the Midland hotel, now styled the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Midland Hotel, to enjoy the many Mancunian delights that lie within walking distance of the old railway hotel, and others that can be reached by the new Altrincham-Bury tram service which passes close-by.

The drama that caused a total evacuation of the hotel, just as a military pipe band swung its way into St Peter's Square on Remembrance Sunday, was of the burnt-toast-sets-off-smoke-alarm variety. Not a catastrophe. It was the human response to the incident that was so telling.

For several minutes, none of the breakfasters moved from the Trafford restaurant as the hoot-hoot of the alarm assailed their ears. Elderly women, walking down the emergency stairs wrapped in Holiday Inn dressing-gowns, grumbled only mildly that they had been "proper comfortable" until the siren sounded. Patrons on upper floors rang to ask if a porter could bring their cars to the door, an example of plutocratic cool which Charles Rolls and Henry Royce, who formed their partnership in the hotel, could well have understood.

After the disruption, a duty manager explained that the restaurant had served 200 more breakfasts than usual and that he had received only one complaint. Which goes to show that the Midland, like Manchester itself, remains in good heart.

For someone who last knew the city really well in the 1960s, it is exciting to see how its municipal virtues and friendly warm-heartedness are alive and still infectious in the 1990s. There is far more to see and do now than there was, and a weekend is too short to do more than a sample, and to list the things one would like to do on a future visit.

The transformations are dramatic. Old warehouses have been brought to life and new glass buildings have shot up. Along the Oxford Road, adjoining the university quarter, is one of the biggest concentrations of curry restaurants in Britain. The Chinese district, closer to the centre, contains numerous shops and restaurants. The excellent Yang Sing, which we visited as part of the Midland's Chinatown Option scheme, is a popular eating place where you may have to book a table three weeks in advance.

What in the 1960s was a derelict area is now Castlefield, with its Museum of Science and Technology and other attractions, such as the Outdoor Events Theatre, which stages street plays. Opposite the G-Mex exhibition and conference centre, itself the old Central railway station, an international concert hall is going up at speed. The huge, new Manchester Arena is due for completion next summer.

The more human aspects seem to buzz with vitality. A year as the City of Drama, which brought in many foreign theatre companies, is drawing to a close. The city's clubs are among the reasons why students continue to flock to Manchester's educational institutions (though some of the young-looking women guests at the Midland said the clubs made them feel old). The shopping in King Street is good, and the city is backing a Red Rose community forest.

In spite of the publicity about the sniffy remarks about Manchester said to have been made by the Queen (revered here as the Duke of Lancaster) while in St Petersburg, and disappointment at being beaten in the race for the Olympics, the city is a strong contender for the 2002 Commonwealth Games. On present form, it would manage the games and its associated arts festival with panache.

So what did we do in our 48 hours? Nothing too strenuous, but much that was enjoyable. The visitor-tour of the old Midland, with Barbara Frost, the hotel's historian, made a good start. She told how Charles Trubshaw, the original architect, had taken great care to protect guests from the weather and then, after a rush of blood to the head, installed a roof garden. The combination of rain, and smoke from chimneys serving 400 rooms, made the experiment short-lived. "Less a case of cucumber sandwiches with a view, more like sooty butties," she said.

We walked a lot, did the Granada Studios backstage tour, with its *Coronation Street* set, and wandered around the City Art Gallery. The gallery is good for those who like pre-Raphaelites, and has a huge Turner picture of the Thames from Richmond Hill. Across the city is the Salford art gallery with its Lowrys. We were lucky: a temporary exhibition of the Arts and Crafts Movement, as collected by a forerunner of Manchester Metropolitan University, provided an insight into pottery, glassware and William Morris.

We arrived the day after the fireworks in Albert Square, and the switching on of the Christmas lights, but did attend the moving Remembrance Day ceremony in St Peter's Square. Next time, we would like to attend a concert by the Hallé Orchestra, and I shall overcome family opposition to take the tram to Bury, to see whether it is true that the world's finest black puddings are on sale in the market there.

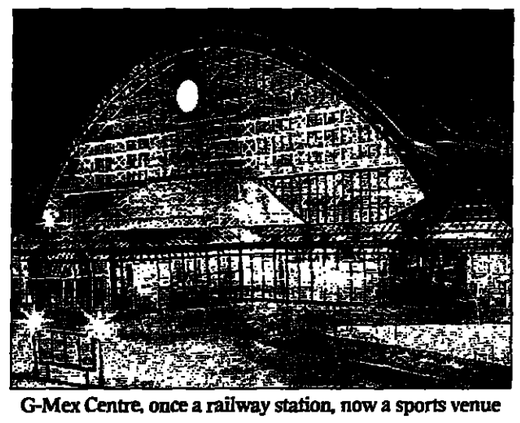
Manchester is romantic, historic (the Midland is built on the site of the Peterloo Massacre) and with lots to see and do. It is a convenient and compact place.

And did it rain on our weekend? Of course, but it didn't matter.

RICHARD BOURNE



A corner of the Manchester City Art Gallery, reflecting the old corporate grandeur of the city. Among its treasures are pre-Raphaelite paintings



G-Mex Centre, once a railway station, now a sports venue

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Midland Hotel, Manchester (061-236 3333). Weekend rates: Options scheme (with a choice of tickets for concerts, shopping vouchers or meals at selected restaurants) £120 per room per night, with breakfast and one main meal; family room with two children up to 19, including breakfast, £104; double room with breakfast, £89; single room with breakfast, £65.

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Spend a three-day break at your choice of two of Britain's leading health resorts and save up to £50 with an exclusive deal for readers of *The Times*.

Henlow Grange Health Farm, in Bedfordshire, was recently extended at a cost of £4 million. It has new facilities including a fine 25 metre ozone-treated swimming pool with whirlpool, a computerised gymnasium and a new spa. The 220 staff include more than 70 therapists.

Established more than 30 years ago, Henlow combines the comfort and elegance of an English country house with the opportunity to use a vast range of fitness, beauty and relaxation treatments.

The menus include local fresh produce, imaginatively presented. The Georgian mansion stands in parklands with views of the River Hiz and the waterfall, which was built by Benedictine monks in the 11th century.

Times readers who take advantage of this offer will be able to stay at Henlow Grange for two nights and three days for just £149.95, reduced from £199.95.

Springs Hydro, in the Leicestershire countryside near Ashby de la Zouch, is Britain's first purpose-built health spa. Its facilities include a swimming pool, a whirlpool, a sauna and a steam room, a fully equipped gymnasium and a golf range.

The cost at Springs Hydro is £125.95, reduced from £139.95.

The price includes breakfasts, buffet lunch and a three course dinner. It also covers treatments including one full-body massage, a facial or neck/shoulder massage, a UVA sunbed or body exfoliation, unlimited use of sauna and steam, free advice from the Clarins Skincare Centre and free use of the indoor pool, whirlpool, tennis courts, gymnasium, mountain bikes, table tennis and croquet. Many other beauty and hair treatments are also available, plus tennis and swimming lessons.

A stay at either resort begins with coffee and an introductory tour, followed by a consultation and a three-course lunch. In the afternoon, guests are free to try the inclusive treatments.

The second day is spent being pampered and cosseted by therapists. On the third day you are invited to stay until 4pm, although rooms must be vacated by 10.30am and there is no dinner on that day.

Exercise and relaxation classes take place in the life-fitness gym. The programme offers more than 16 classes each day including step workouts, gym instruction, aerobics, walks, yoga, body alignment and relaxation classes.

Skilled therapists offer a comprehensive range of treatments at both resorts including aromatherapy, massage, seaweed baths, pedicures and manicures.

Other activities include tennis, croquet, swimming, yoga and dance classes. Bicycles, riding and golf can easily be arranged.

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Haven of health: Henlow Grange and its new ozone-treated swimming pool

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To book, or for further information, contact: **Henlow Grange, Henlow, Bedfordshire SG16 6DB**, telephone 0462 811111, or: **Springs Hydro, Ashby de la Zouch, Packington, Leicestershire LE6 5LTG**, telephone 0530-273873.

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The offer is valid on any two-night break from January 1 to February 24 1995.

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Saturday night supplements are £29.95 per person.

Single room prices are: Henlow, £172.95; Springs Hydro £152.95

Brighten a bleak midwinter

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, on seasonal plants for hanging baskets and window boxes



Deep red winter pansies in individual terracotta pots

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY



A splendid display of ornamental cabbages set in a terracotta pot brings welcome colour to dull areas of the garden

This weekend, gardening will be a low priority in most homes, even if the weather is fine. But it is worth attending to a small area often neglected at this time of year: the planting of window boxes, tubs and even hanging baskets for winter interest.

At the end of autumn, many people store their tubs and hanging baskets and clear out their window boxes, but a thoughtfully planted container can be rewarding through the winter, particularly if you have a small garden. It can also cheer up the garden at Christmas.

Such displays are simpler to manage than container gardening in summer: none of the constant fretting about watering, the conundrums about colour, or the agony of your pelargoniums coming out of the greenhouse covered in whitefly.

"Keep it simple" is a good maxim for container gardening through the year. This is imperative in winter, because you rarely have the option to do anything else. The staples are evergreen foliage and the small selection of usually pale-coloured flowers that do not require much sunlight — in particular, winter-flowering pansies — which should be planted either singly or in limited combinations.

In one garden, I admired a pair of window boxes brimming with winter pansies, which had white flowers with warm purple mottling. Even more impressive were hanging baskets, which were planted so that the pale-blue pansies appeared to be flowering out in all directions.

The trick is to build up layers of planting material in the basket, putting the pansies in at different angles, while ensuring that their roots are covered with a final layer of soil. And, if you decide to line the basket with moss, it is less likely to turn brown and dry than in summer.

You can grow winter pansies from seed or buy them at a nursery or garden centre, choosing by colour from trays of six, which should not cost more than £2.50-£3.

It is important to keep your plants in scale to the proposed container. If you have a small window box or tub, an ideal combination for Christmas is miniature white or red-flowered cyclamen planted in groups of one colour only, with a surround of small-leaved trailing variegated ivy. These ivies, which are readily available, are primary background plants for winter containers and their trailing habit makes them suitable for hanging baskets, pots and boxes.

Ivies mix as well with another evergreen, and they make an ideal skirt for a group of mottled pink and white ornamental cabbages, which you can buy in containers and plant in a group to make an impressive dome.

The variegated ivies are the ideal foil to an evergreen, planted singly in a tub or repeated in a window box.

I have never greatly admired dwarf conifers when they are planted among alpines in a rockery or in groups with other prostrate varieties, but an ideal candidate for a small tub in winter is the miniature juniper, *Juniperus communis* 'Compressa'. The small spiky foliage of the column-shaped plant has a warm blue tint. If you buy it at about 6in-8in high it should not cost more than £5. Even after several years it is unlikely to exceed 18in-20in, and if you get bored with the variegated ivy at different times of the year, you can change the surrounding plants.

Occasionally, a container initially planted with a flowering evergreen for summer effect will have a second season during the winter, and we are enjoying one in our garden at the moment. In a ceramic tub against a brick wall, we planted a small variegated *Euonymous fortunei* at the back of the tub with three plants of *Parahebe catarractae* around the front.

For weeks through the summer, the parahebes produced sprays of small-veined white flowers, but now the combination of their dark, evergreen foliage spilling over the edges of the tub and complementing the euonymous is a subdued but effective way of enlivening a corner.

As effective as anything in a container during winter is a single, smartly clipped evergreen such as box or bay, but for something more seasonal for Christmas, either a single plant or group of a variegated holly, such as *Ilex aquifolium* 'Argentea Marginata', is ideal. This striking variety of the common English holly has a silver edging to its leaves, which have a rich, shining texture on young plants.

Good, too, is the 'Aurea Marginata' variety of the same holly, whose foliage has golden edging. Buy them in a garden centre or nursery and plant them straight out into a tub or window box, and you will give any Christmas visitors exactly the right note of seasonal greeting.

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q My 15-year-old shrub rose 'Nevada' has always bloomed well twice a year, but this year the flowering was poor and some of the lower branches were devoid of foliage. Should I thin out the growth generally, or give it a radical pruning to 12in from the ground, to encourage new growth? — Mrs P. Cross, Ranmoor, Sheffield.

A Nevada is a wonderfully generous, early summer rose, which covers itself in huge, creamy-white single flowers. Usually there is a late summer flowering, too. Growth is vigorous, and a bush 8ft in all directions is not unusual. Wood growth is fast and straight at first, arching over as the years go by.

The oldest wood is usually found low down on the bush, and it may be that your specimen is carrying too much tired, old wood. I would try thinning now as the first remedy, but coupled with a heavy mulch of manure or good dressing of artificial fertiliser in spring.

If things look no better next summer, cut it right down next winter. But still give it a generous feed.

Q For the past three years the area in my garden for annuals has been invaded by clover. Every winter I dig the ground and remove as many small "bulbs" as I can and hoe the clover as soon as it appears. But it is a losing battle. Can you suggest how to remove it permanently? — B.S. Gidvani, Oxshott, Surrey.

A Clovers can be tenacious but not in the manner of the unbeatable bulbous weed you describe. Your variety seems to be an oxalis, of which the best known is our native wood sorrel, with its delicate trefoil leaves and creamy flowers. There are other oxalis, from the southern hemisphere, which have escaped from gardens to become naturalised weeds. Some produce bulblets underground and/or overground, which hoeing only serves to spread even further.

They are difficult to eradicate with chemical sprays, not least because the leaves are shiny and repel water droplets. The best answer is to remove the soil and either sterilise it or replace it. If the area is not too large, you might lift an area of unimportant turf, take out the fresh soil from beneath and bury the old infested soil under the turf, where it will rapidly be mown into submission. There are many weeds — ground elder included — which linger almost forever in cultivated ground but succumb to grass competition and the constant defoliation from a lawnmower.

Q I have a monkey puzzle tree, about ten years old and 3ft tall. Its new shoots are green and healthy, but further back down the branches the leaves soon turn brown and fall off. When the tree was first bought in a pot, I was told that the browning, even then, was because it had been too long in a pot, but that planting out would rectify the problem. The tree was a present and I do not want to get rid of it, but it looks a mess. What can I do? — Ted Whitley, St Austell, Cornwall.

A No self-respecting monkey puzzle should be so small in Cornwall, particularly after ten years. Plainly it is not growing with any enthusiasm. If it was very pot-bound when planted it is likely to have stayed that way, with its roots in a useless corkscrew.

Seedling monkey puzzles put down a fat tap root in the first year, and if that becomes spiralled on itself, it will never make a stable or healthy tree.

Dig up your tree in late February or early March. If the roots are free-spreading and healthy, replant it in a new position. If not, discard the plant and start again.

I hope the tree is in full light; heavy shade will also produce a weak, hollow-canopied sapling.

● *Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

WEEKEND TIPS



Border lilies make a splash

● *Plant lily bulbs in borders and containers.*

● *Cut out any dead or unhealthy growth from woody shrubs with the correct-sized secateurs, pruning shears or pruning saw. At the same time, cut back about 25 per cent of the oldest stems to the ground.*

● *Book in your lawnmower now for a service early in the new year.*

● *If you have a hazel or* Cornus alba, *cut off a few stout twigs and put them in a shed to dry out; they will be ideal for natural stakes or pea sticks next year.*

● *Indoor pot plants grown in the dark will be ready to bring into the light; put them into a cool room for a week or so before moving into a heated room.*

● *Conditions are ideal for spreading rotted manure on to borders and vegetable patches. Leave it on the surface for a week or two for the frost to break it down before you fork it in.*

● *Lift out new weeds caused by the recent mild weather in borders you have already dug over.*

● *Pick pale mauve* Iris unguicularis *as soon as a bud is visible if you want it for indoor arrangements.*



THE TIMES
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Continued from Page 9

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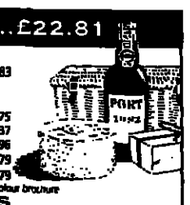
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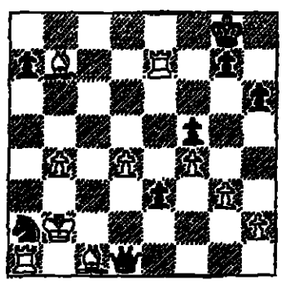
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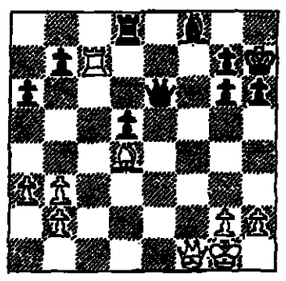
CHESS

by Raymond Keene

WINNING MOVE puzzles continue to provoke immense interest among *Times* readers. My recent correspondence includes a letter from a 100-year-old man, another from a 10-year-old girl and a fax from the House of Lords.

I start with the position from October 19 between Vasiukov and Durasevic, Belgrade 1961. White has a beautiful bishop on d4, which proved to be the key to a winning combination. How did he continue?





The solution as given was 1 Qxf8! Rxf8 2 Rxg7+ Kh8 3 Rxg6+! Rf6 4 Rxf6, and the black queen cannot hide from the impending discovered check.

Both Lord Kilbracken and 100-year-old Dr Sydney Woodhouse of Wolverhampton suggest that Black can improve after 1 Qxf8 with 1 . . . Qe1+ 2 Qf1 Qxf1+ 3 Kxf1 and now 3 . . . Rf8+, when both correspondents suggest that Black might put up a fight with his passed d-pawn.

Nevertheless, after this sequence White still wins easily since his king and bishop will combine to blockade Black's passed pawn, while White's rook on the seventh rank will mop up further pawns, either that on g7 or b7 or both.

Carl Portman of Shropshire has submitted the extraordinary final position of his game as White against David Everington in the 1992 Shropshire Championship. In the following position (with Black to play) the players agreed to a draw. Was this the appropriate conclusion to the game?

Mr Portman suggests that the main line, justifying a draw is 1 . . . Qxd4+ 2 Kxa2 Qc4+ 3 Ka3 Qc3+ 4 Ka2 Qc4+, with a draw by perpetual check. I have examined the alternative winning try for White 1 . . . Qxd4+ 2 Kxa2 Qc4+ 3 Kb1 Qxb4+ 4 Bb2 Qxe7 5 Rxa7, with the threat of 6 Bd5+, but in that case 5 . . . Kh7 leaves Black secure and still in possession of his powerful passed e-pawn. So, a draw does seem justified.

If Black tries to win with 1 . . . Nxb4, then the simple 2 Rxe3 solves White's problems and leaves him with the edge, since his two rooks and bishop against the black queen constitute a formidable material advantage.

Sarah Lee asks how she can take part in chess competitions. My advice in such cases is to contact the British Chess Federation (tel: 0424 442500), where help is always offered.

Final Christmas Tip

For those among you who are congenitally late Christmas shoppers, this week I offer my final tip. *Learn Chess with Garry Kasparov* (Batsford, £9.99), by the world champion, is a book aimed at those who already know how to play, but wish to push their standard up a little. Very useful if your main opponent is the office computer.

Readers who write to me with queries are rewarded with a complimentary copy of the *British Chess Magazine*. Those whose queries are published here receive a six-month subscription.

WINNING MOVE

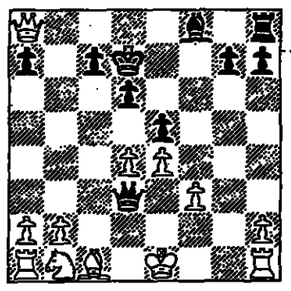
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Rodzinsky - Alekhine, Paris 1913. Black has gambitted a rook and knight to lure the white queen away from the defence. How did Black finish off?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1Rg4 (if 1 . . . Qxe2 2 Rxg7+ Kh8 3 Ng5 and mate by 4 Rh7+ and Rh8 is unavoidable)

Last week's winners: J. Davies, Llangedwyn, Oswestry; Dr G. A. Roberts; Bushey, Herts; A. Smith, Malvern, Worcs.



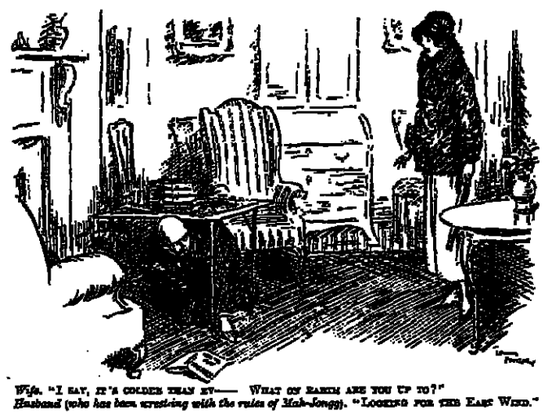
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

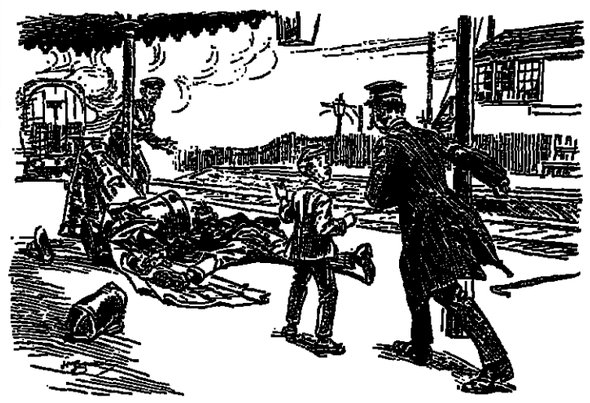
The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon caption 36, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 21.



Wife. "I SAY, IT'S COLDER THAN EV— WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU UP TO?"
Husband (who has been wrestling with the rules of Mah-Jongg). "LOOKING FOR THE EAST WIND."



"He was just about to board, when he saw a giant golden finger come from the sky. A deep voice said: 'It's you.' Then he passed out."

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (printed above) was submitted by Mr W.M. Normington, of Swillington, Nr Leeds, West Yorkshire.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TELOGEN
a. Cessation of hair growth
b. A radioactive powder
c. An electronic screen

WONGI
a. A furry fish
b. A talk
c. An unstable person

TOORALOO
a. An Indonesian island
b. A parting expression
c. A fine-toothed comb

SIRELAND
a. One's native country
b. The master's land
c. The sea bed

Answers on page 19

COMPUTER GAMES

AS WE all know, Christmas is a time for children, so here is something for our younger readers: try clipping out today's column and leaving it somewhere an older brother, sister or adult might chance upon it during the week. It may just work.

The last few shopping days before Christmas are upon us, so here is a last-minute update of gems well worth giving.

For the Sega Mega Drive, Konami's cowboy romp, "Lethal Enforcers II — Gun Fighters", hits the spot. Get off your horse, drink your milk, draw that six-shooter and revel in a decent kinda shoot-'em-up: all ricochet and gun smoke. Previous gun-toting experience is not needed, and two can play.

It is impossible in all but the stiffest circles to play Mega Drive Interplay's "Boogerman" and not collapse into giggles. Boogerman, an anti-hero if ever there were one, is a comical caped crusader. It is a routine platform game but with some original chuckles thrown in.

Over in the Nintendo camp, "Space Invaders" for the Game Boy (and SNES with adaptor) should go a bundle with nostalgia buffs, bringing as it does memories of wasted lunchtimes at the end of the 1970s when every pub had a beckoning Space Invader machine.

"INFERNO" tops the pile of titles we are giving away in Cyberspace Eleven. It is hailed as "another universe experience" and is an

ocean

ambitious sci-fi flight sim with more than 700 missions — in space, on planetary surfaces and inside other spacecraft.

The game features full speech capabilities and a score composed and performed by Alien Sex Fiend. Our winners will receive "collector's editions" of "Inferno". As well as the CD-Rom, the metal presentation box includes T-shirt and poster.

"TFX" is the space combat sim smash from last Christmas where, as a United Nations pilot, you get to fly three of the world's most advanced military aircraft (F117A Stealth Bomber, Lockhead F22 Superstar and Eurofighter 2000) in five realistic scenarios, including restoring hope in Somalia and providing aid to UN nuclear inspectors in Libya.

Our next three titles are served up on the "Virtual Worlds" compilation: "F-29 Retaliator" gives you the choice of two fighter-bombers to play with: "Epic" has you protecting others lost in space from the cockpit of your Epic starfighter; and "Robocop 3" is a shoot-'em-up platform game based on the cuddly movie character.

The final Ocean title is "Central Intelligence", a cerebral game of espionage and political manoeuvring to overthrow a military regime on a South American island inhabited by 2,000 independently acting citizens.

The complexities of Cyberspace Eleven couldn't be simpler. To enter, send us your name, age, address and telephone number on the back of a postcard or sealed envelope. Mark your entry: Cyberspace Eleven, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The deadline is the last second on Saturday December 31, 1994. The first six names plucked from the hat will each win Ocean's glittering games package.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE internationals between the four home countries are known as the Camrose series, currently sponsored by Macallan. Every year the English Bridge Union holds extensive trials in order to select its team. One of the great advantages of trials is that it gives the participants good experience of playing against strong opposition.

When I was a boy, the English Bridge Union exempted some players from the trials, and put them on a "Panel". In the early 1970s, the Panel consisted amongst others of Flint, Cansino, Irving Rose, Chris Dixon and myself. We were all London-based and involved in bridge professionally one way or another and, though impecunious, had an arrogant outlook. A typical example was Cansino's contemptuous comment one morning as we were driving out of London past St John's Wood Tube station to play in a match against Scotland: "Look at all the toilers going to work." The fact that the net worth of each of the toilers probably exceeded the total of those in the car didn't seem to worry him. We were the London mob and therefore the best.

Of course this attractive attitude did not go down too well with "the Northerners", who all worked for a living. (Naturally, we considered the North started as you crossed the North Circular, rather in the manner that my old friend Charlie Sweeny described anywhere outside of Mayfair as "Indian Territory".) The Northerners thought the Panel system elitist and divisive, which indeed it was. Then the power-base in bridge shifted away from London, the Panel system was dropped, and for 20 years democracy reigned supreme.

Imagine my amusement when I see that a new Panel has been created by the EBU, consisting of Forrester and Robson, and Kirby and Armstrong. When the previous Panel system was in existence Robson was still reading *The Beano*, but I seem to recall that the other three rather resented our group being given a free ride into the international matches. Now these two pairs are clearly the best in Britain by a considerable margin, but I hope the EBU reverts to the full trial system, so lesser lights can have a crack at the current elite. Naturally, if they have any sense the EBU will make conditions which allows them to select the above-mentioned four if they don't win the trials.

This year's trials resulted in a narrow victory for the team of Steve Lodge, Peter Crouch, Andrew Dyson and Glyn Liggins. However, they lost points on this hand (above right). First, how would you play Six Spades on a club lead?

Clearly if the spades divide 2-1 there will be 12 tricks on top. What the declarer must be thinking about is how to develop the hearts for an extra trick if the spades are 3-0 and he mis-guesses them. The declarer for the team that finished second in the trials was Gus Calderwood. After winning the ace of clubs he played a heart to the ace, cashed the king of clubs discarding a heart, and played a heart intending to ruff with the jack of spades if East followed.

Dealer South — Game All

♠K72
♥AKJ93
♦A64
♣KQ

N / W E / S

♠AJ109543
♥104
♦J82
♣A

Contract 6♠. Opening lead: ♣3

You might think that this was taking an unnecessary risk — what if West overruffs? But if West overruffs, the declarer will then be able to draw trumps and subsequently take a marked ruffing heart finesse, making in all six spade tricks, three heart tricks, one diamond trick and two club tricks.

In practice East showed out on the second heart. Now it was more likely that he was long in spades, so Calderwood played a spade to the king, on which West showed out, and picked up the spade suit to make his contract. The deal was:

Dealer South — Game All

♠K72
♥AKJ93
♦A64
♣KQ

♠— / ♥Q8752 / ♦Q105 / ♣J7632

N / W E / S

♠Q86 / ♥6 / ♦K973 / ♣109854

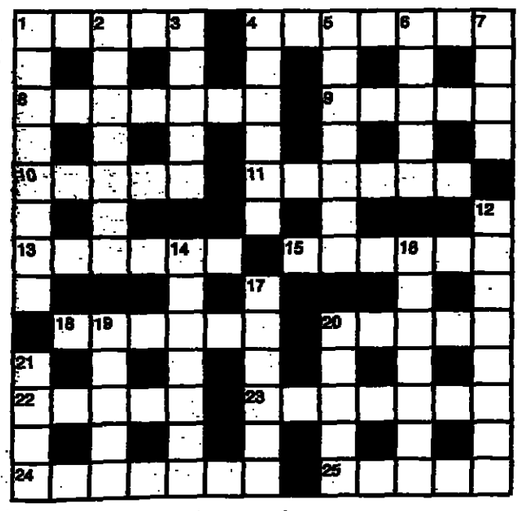
♠AJ109543
♥104
♦J82
♣A

When Crouch played Six Spades for the Liggins team, he received a heart lead. This removed an entry for the manoeuvre carried out by Calderwood, so Crouch won the ace of hearts in dummy, played a spade to the ace, discovering the bad news. He then played a heart to the king and when that was ruffed he went one down.

Though it might appear to be a complete guess as to who to play for the trump length, there is a subtle consideration. The declarer can handle a 5-1 heart break if East has the five (being able to take a marked ruffing finesse as described above). His problems arise when West has the heart length. If West has heart length he is more likely to have the spade shortage, so that is the clue to play the king of spades first.

● *The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship will be held at the White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1, in January. For tickets, contact the English Bridge Union, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP19 3BG (0296 394414).*

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 347

ACROSS
1 Insipid, lifeless (5)
4 Betrayal; oversubscribed event (4-3)
8 Jeered at (7)
9 Seductive ploys (5)
10 Sir Edward —, composer (5)
11 Quite rough (sea) (6)
13 Deracinate (6)
15 Cry whiningly (6)
18 Dining-chair with arms (6)
20 Place for open discussion (5)
22 Willow twig (5)
23 Asian season of heavy rain (7)
24 Specious excuse (7)
25 Cowboy's noosed rope (5)

DOWN
1 Made of glass (8)
2 Sink-unblocking tool (7)
3 Frighten off (from) (5)
4 Lead astray (6)
5 Underhand: information (3-4)
6 Lowest ship deck (5)
7 Job to be done (4)
12 Pink wading bird (8)
14 Head (of coin); counterpart (7)
16 Assorted (7)
17 On time (6)
19 Remark not for overhearing (5)
20 Last (5)
21 Hen cage (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 346

ACROSS: 1 Cat-and-dog 6 Bog 8 Fault 9 Snaffle 10 Throng 12 Doggo 13 Vanity 14 Plucky 17 Dwarf 19 Admire 21 Nothing 22 Phase 23 Arc 24 Easterner
DOWN: 1 Cuff 2 Toughen 3 Nit 4 Design 5 Grand slam 6 Befog 7 Gregory 11 Out of line 13 Vedanta 15 Certain 16 Haggis 18 Attic 20 Beer 22 Poe

CROSSWORD BOOKS (Reduced postage until Dec 31): The Times Concise Crosswords: (Books 1 & 2 £5.49 each), Books 3,4,5,6 & NEW Book 7 £4.00 each. The Times Jumbo Crosswords: (Books 1 to 13 £4.49 each, Concise Book £5.49). The Times Crosswords: (Books 1 to 13 £4.49 each), Books 14 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £4.00 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords — (Book 1 £4.49), Books 10,11,12 & NEW Book 13 £4.00 each. The Sunday Times Concise: Books 1,2,3 £4.00 each. Except the items each. The Sunday Times Concise: Books 1,2,3 £4.00 each. Except the items in brackets, software available for all titles for IBM PCs and Acorn computers — Price £14.95 each — also The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6. The Sunday Times Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Jubilee Edition. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to *Akom Ltd*, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

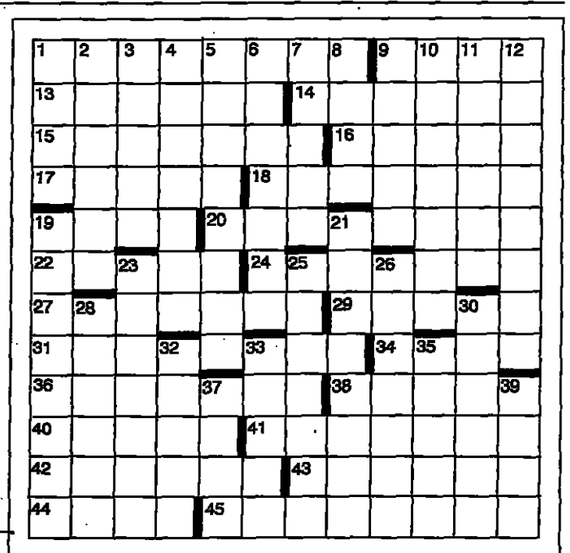
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3284: Fifty-Tiffy by Sabre

Each row and column contains two words. One is to be entered normally, and the other jumbled. There is one geographical proper name.

ACROSS
1. Giant fish turns up containing poison (8)
9. Myopic teetotaller embraces old painted lady (4)
13. By-product of eruption — pronounced night-blindness (6)
14. Mud flows from lake are hot and really stink on top (6)
15. Punch that is fermented sugar (7)
16. What singer did once leader of band split (5)
17. It's warm to sleep on, a cotton cloth (5)
18. Sheep, one clubs one with hint of sturdy (7)
19. Jock's discerned it with old age (4)
20. Too discreet, needs fancy heading (8)
22. Fish pie: a recipe made up (5)
24. Beginning to turn on solitary source of heat (7)
27. Centre of scrambled egg makes you grimace (7)
29. Contrary girl eats last of pud: spoilt brat (5)
31. Cherished carpet — when burnt, it makes you happy? (8)
34. Pulse got back to normal at last (4)
36. Flocks of sheep one's shampooing (7)
38. Saw a goblin in Alaska, one hears (5)
40. An affliction observed in 1387 (5)
41. Start preparing a course for ship's captain (7)
42. Closes rank in symmetrical fashion (6)
43. Drunk odd ale, rum (6)
44. Entrance to garden at back of house? (4)
45. Pickled herrings Englishman's thrown up in limousine (8)

DOWN
1. Kill a toad in Surinam (4)
2. Imagine fish without taste (6)
3. Row could cause anger (5)
4. Leafy extract in salad — an umbellifer (7)
5. It's capital of Labrador caring about runt (8)
6. Pageboy maybe has to dash after old character (7)
7. Rivet can cause ringing sound (5)
8. Island supplying two metallic elements (4)
9. Worst exits to London airport? (5)
10. Dosser found waiting in Inns of Court (7)
11. Softens (by soaking) hard seam (6)
12. Kind of strange rites seen through arch (8)
19. One defeating in court Salamanca, perhaps? (8)
21. They finish '55 Graham with nutty cheese (8)
23. Greek tale bound in gold? (7)
25. Vast eel writhes to dance music (7)
26. Radio broadcast at noon follows degree course (7)
28. It starts emitting grunt when disturbed (6)
30. You see fly infest caterpillar (6)
32. Arabella, say, discovers piano in old age (5)
33. Short swim provided soak (5)
35. A diver turns up tin (5)
37. To remain outside train shows reserve (4)
39. Send around outer districts (4)



Setters' announcement

Setters who have not yet booked their places at the setters' dinner (to be held in Eastbourne on March 11 1995) are asked to do so as soon as possible. Please contact Paul Henderson, 4a Callis Road, London E17 8PN. There should be places for interested solvers, and an invitation will follow shortly.

S	P	R	E	C	C	E	A	N	T	E	C	T	S	
W	O	R	D	O	S	I	R	I	S	M	O	R	A	
B	E	L	I	A	L	N	E	S	A	D	O	P	T	
O	M	I	F	L	E	E	T	A	D	A	M	M	A	
R	Y	E	Y	E	A	T	E	N	D	A	G	O	N	
G	I	R	D	R	S	I	G	N	A	B	U	L	B	
I	M	P	I	S	E	M	A	M	M	O	N	O	E	
A	P	E	R	O	D	E	D	O	A	C	C	C	E	
N	A	V	E	F	A	D	I	T	S	K	O	H	L	
D	R	E	G	S	A	S	S	E	T	O	L	U	Z	
E	L	D	E	C	T	T	I	T	A	N	A	T	E	
V	E	R	S	E	T	A	S	P	R	E	F	A	B	
I	D	A	E	L	A	R	I	A	T	R	A	T	U	
L	O	T	T	E	R	Y	S	I	E	S	T	A	B	

Solution to Listener Crossword No. 3281: 54 Across Yielded By a 44 Down's Trap So 29 Down, by Columba

PARADISE LOST

The title, VERSE YIELDED BY A DEVIL'S TRAP SO DIRE, was a clue (anag less v, & lit) to PARADISE LOST. This suggested the withdrawal of PARADISE — or either of its variants, EDEN and HEAVEN — from the following 12 answers:
2A Precedence: 6A Antecedents; 30A Red ensign; 39A Accedence; 49A Decedent; 57A Paradiseidae; 1D Swedenborgian; 8D Emparadised; 16D Heavenlier; 38D Heaven of heavens; 46D Sedentary; 53D Edentata.

Answers to the twelve PD clues are all characters who, under God's jurisdiction, *fall* — either in Satan's rebellion or, in the case of Adam and Eve, as a result of the "trap so dire" — in Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

The winner is Patrick Routley, of Highgate High Street, London. The runners-up are Mrs J Roberts, of Birkenhead Road, Hoylake, Wirral and M.A. Trollope, of Balcombe Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex.

LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3284

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ADDRESS .....

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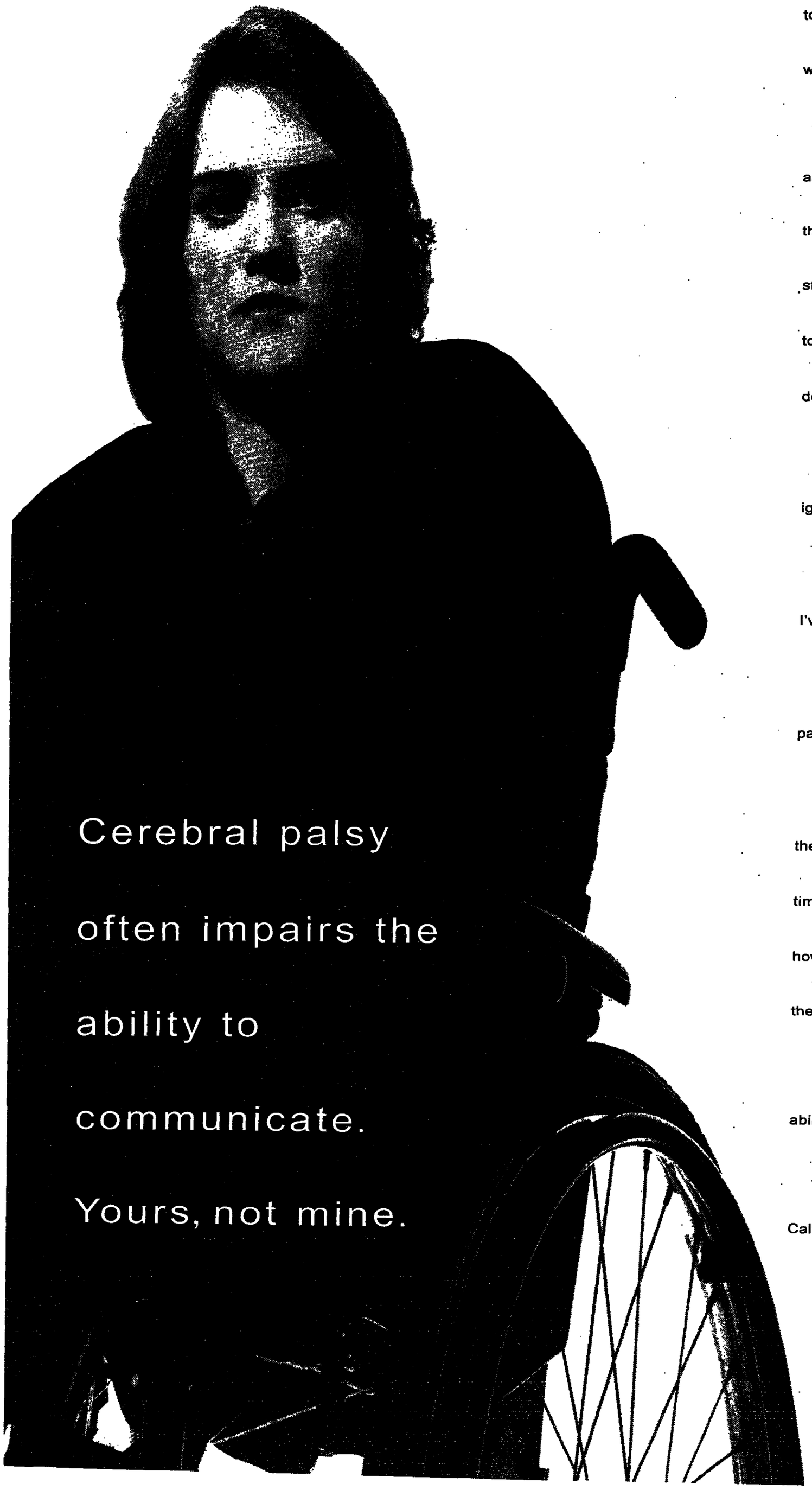
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POSTCODE .....



PRIZES: Book tokens worth £50 will go to the winner. The two runners-up will each win £20 book tokens.

ADDRESS: Readers should cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above, to The *Listener* Crossword 3284, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, December 29.



I know it's difficult to understand what I say. But it would be easier if people tried.

It's the muscles in my jaw and my tongue that are affected, not my mind. That works as clearly as you're reading this.

And I don't care how many times you ask me to repeat myself. I'd rather you do that than just nod and pretend you understand. For all you know, I might have just told you that you've got a face like a bulldog sucking a wasp. Not that I would.

The worst thing is when people just ignore me and look the other way.

Schools, employers, local authorities, I've been ignored by them all.

And like everyone else with cerebral palsy, I'm tired of it.

So are the Spastics Society. That's why they changed to Scope. Because it's about time that everyone with cerebral palsy, however severely disabled, was allowed the scope to live normally.

Which means not having our rights and abilities ignored.

Scope are as keen to talk to you as I am.

Call them, local rate, on 0645 486 487.

SCOPE
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Formerly The Spastics Society

هكذا من الاصل